

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXVII.]

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BIRTHS.

On March 9th, at Bremen, the wife of J. TH. LAUTS, of a son.

On March 10th, at 7 Mountain View Peak, to Mr. and Mrs. A. BEATTIE, a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On February 29th, at Shanghai, JOHN ALEXANDER ROSS, Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, to ELLA WATSON WHITE.

On March 7th, at Shanghai, THOMAS WILLIAM, son of the late William Pollock, L. M. Customs, Ningpo, to JEANIE MILLER ALEXANDER.

On March 12th, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Lord Bishop of Victoria assisted by the Rev. F. T. JOHNSON, M. A., JAMES R. M. SMITH of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation to EDITH A. MOUNTJOY SANDERS, daughter of James Sanders, Esq. of South Molton, England, and sister of Dr. J. Herbert Sanders, of Hongkong.

DEATHS.

On February 5th, at Folkestone, Mrs. CALDWELL, widow of the late Mr. H. C. Caldwell, solicitor of Hongkong. Deeply regretted.

On February 29th, at Tientsin, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. K. F. MELCHERS, aged one year and a half.

On March 1st, at Shanghai, GRACE ADELAIDE HILL, aged nine years and eight months.

On March 1st, at Shanghai, JOHN CLARK QUICK, of Hall & Holtz, Ltd., Shanghai, aged 50 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of February 11th arrived, per the s.s. *Princess Alice*, on Tuesday, the 10th instant; and the French Mail of February 14th arrived, per the s.s. *Touraine*, to-day.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

A *Daily Press* telegram dated Tokyo, March 13th, said:—Count Hayashi entertained the British Embassy to dinner in commemoration of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. In proposing the toast of the Alliance Sir Claude Macdonald read a message from the London Government expressing confidence in the strength of the Alliance. Count Hayashi, in reply, emphasised the effectiveness of the agreement and referred to the benefits derivable from the agreements with France and Russia.

During February the hottest day was the 29th, when the temperature stood at 75.2, and there was 7.2 hours of sunshine. The total sunshine for the month was 87.1 hours. The coldest day was the 20th, the glass being 50.1. There were 2.830 inches of rain during the month.

As briefly mentioned in our issue of Friday a big fire occurred at West Point on March 12th by which five godowns were gutted and their contents of tea, matting and tar destroyed. The alarm was not conveyed to the Fire Brigade until some time after seven o'clock and then every available man and available apparatus was employed. The two steamers were out (one from West Point and the other from the Central), as well as the fire boat and six hydrants were in use. Even then the firemen found it impossible to quell the outbreak. The flames had completely enveloped the buildings, the roofs had partly collapsed, and the conflagration threatened to spread to the large godowns at the rear abutting on Queen's Road which were filled with valuable goods. However the brigade succeeded in preventing the flames from spreading beyond the five godowns and though over 100 tons of the contents were burnt the fire has not yet exhausted itself. As a matter of fact the fire will not likely be completely extinguished in less than a week's time and the brigade will have to be in attendance for several days yet. The godowns belonged to Chinese owners whose loss, it is understood, is covered by insurance. The damage is estimated at \$300,000.

During the week two important events for the Chinese Church in Hongkong have taken place. They are themselves indicative of the vigour and activity of the Chinese branch of the Anglican Communion in Hongkong. On Sunday morning last the Bishop of Victoria opened the Chapel of St. Paul's College as a place of worship for the Chinese. His Lordship preached on Rev. III. 8, "Behold I set before you an open door," and expressed his satisfaction that the growth of St. Stephen's congregation had necessitated another Church and his assurance that before long the Chinese Christians would themselves build a new Church to take the place of the small Chapel he was able to lend them for the present. The other event was the admission by the Bishop on Wednesday evening last at St. Stephen's Church of two Chinese gentlemen to the office of Voluntary Lay Reader. They are Messrs. Li Wai Ching and Ng Tin Po. They were presented by Archdeacon Binister and the sermon was preached by the Bishop in the course of which he pointed out that the office of Lay Reader was an ancient one revived and re-joined that Chinese laymen were now coming forward to voluntarily occupy that responsible position in the growing Church of China. —Contributed.

JAPAN AND CHINA.

Tokyo, March 6th.

The "Fatsu Maru" negotiations have been broken off though China agrees to the surrender of the steamer but insists upon detaining the cargo pending the inspection of the papers and ascertaining the status of Carabay waters off Point Cabrita. Japan does not agree with this position. The Portuguese Minister has left Tokyo en route for Macao.

A *Daily Press* telegram dated Tokyo March 9th said:—The negotiations regarding the "Fatsu Maru" incident are said to have taken an unfavourable turn. The Foreign Office here declines to speak for publication, but it is freely rumored that several orders have been sent to the squadron at Kyushu.

The warships at Sasabo are said to be busy preparing to leave for destinations unknown. Considerable activity is apparent at Navy Headquarters.

Tokyo, March 11th.

Count Hayashi addressing a deputation from the Seiyukai, expressed regret that he was not at liberty to make a statement on the "Fatsu Maru" incident, as the situation was delicate, but he could assure them that the dignity of Japan would be preserved. Count Okuma, on being interviewed, said that the affair was trifling but every diplomatic means would have to be exhausted before they had recourse to the last resort.

Tokyo, March 10th.

Count Hayashi, in an interview, has declared that it was a grave mistake to think or suggest that Japan had sent an ultimatum to China in connection with the "Fatsu Maru" incident.

Relying on the incontrovertible facts of the case, and patient in face of China's obduracy, Japan had merely expressed its earnest desire that China would reconsider her position in the matter.

HONGKONG UNIVERSITY.

It has been reported that Mr. A. H. Rendle, the manager of the Hongkong Milling Company, intended to give \$150,000 for the building of a university for Hongkong. Mr. Rendle writes to inform us that he is not the prospective donor of a lakh and a half of dollars but that he is the promoter of the undertaking in question and that he will cause to be handed over to a court of directors complete within 24 months, if the necessary land is available forthwith, a university which will be in his opinion a credit not only to Hongkong but to the generous and modest donor, Mr. H. N. Mody.

It is difficult indeed to find words in which to adequately convey the feelings aroused by this second expression of Mr. Mody's liberality. On Friday the community was delighted with the announcement of his munificent gift of \$150,000 for the Seamen's Institute and now another thrill of pleasure and gratification will be experienced by most people in the city that the gentleman, who is perhaps the oldest resident in the Colony, has added another token of his open-handed munificence to Hongkong and that a long-felt want will soon be met and that a university will take its place among the institutions of the city which will make it a Mecca for students in the East.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SANITARY BOARD.

(Daily Press, 7th March.)

The full extent of the Government's appreciation of the recommendations of the Sanitary Commission are now disclosed in the Bill which was laid before the Legislative Council on Thursday to amend the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance 1903. The Commissioners have been courteously thanked by Sir MATTHEW NATHAN, by the SECRETARY OF STATE, and by H. E. Sir FREDERICK LUGARD for the ability and public spirit they have shown in undertaking a long and exhaustive investigation into the Sanitary Administration of the Colony; but the principal recommendations the Commission has made with a view to correcting the abuses and remedying the inefficiency disclosed by the evidence, have been politely condemned by the Government as impracticable. The outcome of the Commission then has been executive action on many matters of detail including the correction of the abuse of bribery and corruption, and the Government have produced a Bill embodying some of the subordinate recommendations of the Commission, and propose to deal partly by executive and partly by legislative action with the question of the constitution and organisation of the Sanitary Department which, the Commissioners concluded, lay at the root of the whole trouble. The Government's proposals however are diametrically opposed to the recommendations of the Commission, since they curtail rather than extend the principle of popular control.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR in the long and interesting explanation he gave to the Legislative Council on Thursday stated the reasons of the Government's dissent from the larger principles enunciated by the Sanitary Commission, and some of these we propose to examine. The Government has recognised the force of the argument that the multitudinous duties attaching to the office of Principal Civil Medical Officer make it humanly impossible for that gentleman to give that constant and close supervision to the Sanitary Board which its proper working demands; and the Bill proposes to relieve this officer not only of the position of administrative head of the Sanitary Board, but of membership of that body, and in his place it is proposed to appoint as head of the department "a cadet officer with experience of the Chinese, in the Chinese language and of proved administrative capacity . . . a working head who shall devote his whole time and shall be vested with adequate powers and responsibility and whose career shall depend upon the efficiency of the department, and who, like his subordinates, shall be responsible to the Government." This looks an excellent scheme on paper, like the proposal made in 1902 for the appointment of a Sanitary Commissioner, but in actual practice, though the proposed new head of the Department is shorn of the despotic powers with which it was intended to invest the Sanitary Commissioner, it yet seems to us that the appointment is open to much the same objections. If the ideal man is obtained "the system may be the most convenient as otherwise it is certainly the worst." Apart from the perils of such an appointment indicated in this extract, the factor of expense is to be borne in mind. A cadet officer qualified to fill this position will, presumably, be a well-paid man, and it would appear desirable, if not absolutely necessary, that he should have a deputy in training who would be qualified to

carry on the work in the chief's absence on furlough or through sickness. The Government may without serious inconvenience pitchfork cadets from some departments into others, but it seems to us that a special training is requisite for any officer who fills the position of head of the Sanitary Department either temporarily or permanently. For the proposed head of the Sanitary Department would have to be a man of experience in the work and a man who would command public confidence. On the question as to whether the head of the Department should be responsible to the Sanitary Board or the Government, His Excellency is unable to see how an officer appointed by the Crown and paid by the Crown can be responsible to any other but the Government. For our part we can see no real difficulty. Officers holding appointments under many of the local bodies in England are practically in the same position as the Commission wished the officers of the Sanitary Board to occupy. Before the era of County Councils, local administrative authorities in England only selected their officers, the real power of appointment and dismissal rested with the Local Government Board, who regulated the rate of remuneration, length of service, and the amount of pension. But not to look so far as England, what can be done in the sister Colony of Singapore, ought not to be impossible here. The arguments His Excellency urged against this recommendation of the Commission are of no greater force in Hongkong than they are in Singapore, and in the southern colony the whole of the sanitary work is in the hands of a municipality with a self-contained and competent staff.

We were somewhat astonished to note for the first time in His Excellency's speech the statement that the Commission had suggested for the Sanitary Board unrestricted power to spend the entire sum voted for the sanitation of the Colony. So far as we are able to discover on glancing again over the recommendations, His Excellency would appear to have rather exaggerated the suggestion, which was that the Board should "be accountable to His Excellency for the expenditure of the Funds voted by the Legislative Council." The Council does not blindly vote a lump sum, but, as His Excellency remarked, it is divided under various heads which are authorised and allocated by the Legislative Council. We do not gather from the report of the Commission that any departure from this practice was advocated or that the power which is now exercised by the Council should be taken away and conferred on the Sanitary Board. We take it that what the Commission suggested was simply that the Board as a whole should have the control which under present conditions rests with the President.

His Excellency is convinced by the arguments of the Commission that the division of control now exercised over the engineering work is bad, but instead of adopting the suggestion of the Commission that the Sanitary Department should have a competent and self-contained staff, the Government proposes to curtail what little authority the Sanitary Board possesses by transferring to the Public Works Department the officers whose work is more or less connected with that of the Building Authority. This is rather an amazing suggestion for the members of the Commission and the community to consider, for the community is very much concerned in the deprivation of power and control which this proposal involves.

It is greatly to be regretted that the Bill is being brought before the Chamber at a time when it is temporarily deprived of the presence of the Hon. Mr. Hewett, who, as Chairman of the now defunct Commission, is of course thoroughly familiar with all the details and arguments supporting the recommendations of the Commission, and would be able profitably to discuss the many interesting points in the excellent speech which His Excellency made in introducing the Bill. Every credit must be given to Sir FREDERICK LUGARD for the careful consideration he has obviously given to the Report of the Commission, and whoever has read the speech will be ready to congratulate the Governor upon the lucidity and the ability with which he has presented the Government's views upon the whole subject; but it will be generally regretted that His Excellency has not been led to see the advantage and the necessity for granting to the community a fuller measure of control of the administrative details of the work of the Department.

PEKING OFFICIALS.

(Daily Press, March 9th.)

That some occult influence has been at work in Peking to render nugatory the efforts of those who are seeking to restore China to her place and influence amongst the nations is becoming from day to day more evident. The powers of reaction have won a noteworthy victory in the provinces of Chehkiang and Kiangsu, with the result that these two provinces, formerly looked upon as the best ordered in the Empire, have for the last two years attained an unenviable reputation for disorder and violence. In the north this condition is always associated with the former Taotai YUAN of Shanghai, who was so unpleasantly connected with the plot to destroy the Foreign Settlements, and who, instead of being punished as a traitor, has in the face of his crimes, not only against the foreigner, but in direct contumacy to the Government at Peking, actually been promoted to substantive office, and appointed to the important post of Senior Vice president of the Board of Civil Administration, a post which gives him opportunities of parading on their way to the provinces the orders of the central Government itself. Common report has it that on one occasion, not many months ago, the old Viceroy CHANG CHUN-REN was bold enough in the presence of the Empress Dowager to mention the existence of the eunuchs about the Palace. Such a thing, especially in the presence of the Dowager Tszé Ht, of course partook almost of high treason, and an instantaneous glance from Her Majesty, prevented the sentence being concluded. There is, however, some reason for the belief that the rapid promotion of YUAN Taotai, is not altogether unconnected with this little episode, and that YUAN, whose prohibition for suspicious alliances is notorious, is at the moment posing at the Court as their mouthpiece. We have already on more than one occasion had occasion to allude to his suspicious connection with the Salt Smugglers of the Hangchow Bay who (as is well known), under powerful official patronage have actually become a competitor with the Peking Government itself in the administration of the two provinces; and since YUAN's promotion it is notorious not only that their depredations have increased, but that they have been carried on with increasing immunity. Meanwhile the local officials are paralysed by contrary orders. The official orders instruct them to ex-

terminate the Smugglers, while private instructions, coupled with their own instincts, prompt them to temporise, which to an official indicates a chance of hush money not to be lightly thrown away. So the local officials find themselves accordingly blind to the whole affair, and carefully wait till on each occasion an emissary from the plundered craft comes to inform them that pirates are about, when the news is received with well affected incredulity, and an official launch sent to "make enquiries." The *Shanghai Mercury* thus writes on the subject: "Piracy is rampant, and the authorities, if they can be called such who have no authority, are helpless. We were told some weeks ago that an army was on its way southward for the express purpose of dealing with the salt smugglers and other rascallions of Chichkiang and Kiangsu. Where are they? Probably the local officials have had their own way, and the efficient northerners have been effectually counter-manded. The local officials would have had to bear the expense of the invaders, their own forces would have lost face, and—one can never tell—there is every possibility that certain official receipts might have disappeared before such a radical cure as was suggested. Be this as it may, there is no diminution of crime so far as we can discover, and the question arises:—What is to be done about it?" Now there is no doubt from the entire current of affairs that the greater part of this is correct; but it is not the whole truth. The provincial officials for the most part would, we believe, willingly wash their hands of the whole affair, which is seriously interfering with the finances of the country. True, they are not above taking advantage of the circumstances to fill up the gap by accepting hush money; but it is only fair to look at the matter from the provincial's point of view before condemning him too hastily. He has had to pay heavily for his office, the emoluments of which are pretty closely watched at Peking. But besides this, which may be called the regular contribution which goes towards supporting the Court proper, there are extra squeezes which go to support the Court improper, i.e. the eunuchs and their belongings, which under the present regency is no light matter, including as it does not only the eunuchs, but all the irregular expenses of the Empress Dowager. Now in the majority of instances the official has had to borrow heavily for his post, this lending of money to officials on appointment being considered quite honourable, and constituting a very important branch of banking; and should he after appointment fail to repay his indebtedness on this score, he is for ever afterwards looked upon as a defaulter, and has no hope of ever obtaining another appointment. This is the terror that ever hangs over the provincial official, whose whole life is occupied in keeping square, on the one hand with the faction in power in Peking, and on the other with his creditors; who, he knows by too many instances among his friends, will have no mercy on him should he once make default. Now of late years, instead of the expenses of her irregular Court diminishing with the advancing years of the Empress Dowager, they have actually with the ever growing greed of her eunuchs been passing out of bounds; and the more the provincial is squeezed by the powers above him, the more is he driven to have recourse to devious ways. Now it is notorious that it is by ways such as these that YUAN SHUNSU has contrived to make himself acceptable to the Court, regular or irregular, and this of course, is the secret of his recent promotion. The better officials feel the degradation of

having thus to pander to the iniquities of the Court, and many of them would gladly hail reform. The whole system is, however, so utterly rotten from its foundation upwards that no one can pretend that amidst the general corruption he himself is pure; and the justest are so entangled in the slush surrounding themselves, that none are found able to stretch out a helping hand to their neighbours. As we have often pointed out, reform to open the way must begin at the top, and nothing short of the purification of the Court can be effective in stemming the current of corruption. This is just what the present advisers of the Court—men for instance like YUAN SHUNSU—who live on its corruptions, are not likely to do. Meanwhile the provinces, disgusted at the conduct of these who ought to be their betters, but are not, are growing uneasy, and organised marauders like the Salt Smugglers of the Hangchow bay are reaping a rich harvest. It is evident that such a state of affairs cannot long continue, and that the overbalanced ship of state, unless taken in hand, must quickly founder, but what is that to the present leaders? If it last their time, is not that sufficient; why take thought for to-morrow?

It is interesting to find that the present rulers have commenced to consult the Prince CHUN. Prince CHUN, so far, seems to have kept himself free from the surrounding corruption, but is he strong enough to undertake the rescue of the State? On that slender thread seems to rest the future stability of the Empire. He cannot be Emperor without offending the oldest religious instincts of the State, but his son with himself as Regent may; but in any case the present regime has proved its utter incapacity for further rule, and the sooner the replacement is made the better for China.

SENSATIONAL NEWS FROM JAPAN.

(Daily Press, March 10th.)

We have no authority other than our own observation and digestion for stating that the relations existing between China and Japan are by no means so critical as some newspapers have been suggesting they are, and as our Tokyo correspondent would seem last evening to have thought them. The present comments are offered to the public, not so much to allay alarm, as to dissociate ourselves from the alarmists. We are reluctant to believe that either China or Japan is in a belligerent mood, and we cannot understand what can have happened as an excuse for fighting. It must have been evident to careful readers that the "Tatsu Maru" incident was one to be settled by a simple determination of facts, facts easily ascertainable by those prepared to investigate with open minds, and we have therefore not presumed to take sides in the arguments better left to the responsible diplomats. That there could have been so much argument at all in connection with so open and simple an affair is due to the peculiar conditions that have been allowed to grow up previous to the incident. It is hardly necessary to analyse the mixed feelings that are responsible for the curious divergence of views that we have noticed, and it should be sufficient to point out that so far the Chinese authorities have shown themselves amenable to argument. We may briefly review some of the numerous questions outstanding between Japan and China, all of which together have failed (we confidently assert) to revive any

probability of a recurrence of the crisis of 1894. The forestry question on the right bank of the Yalu has long since ceased to be anything more than a mere Chinese bluff, the Japanese Forestry office having proceeded with its operations; and China has been similarly undetermined over the fishery rights on the Manchurian coast, letting the main contentions of the Japanese pass, and merely quibbling over certain uninteresting details. It has been stated that the question of Japanese mails in China amounts to little more than the conclusion of a supplement to the Postal Treaty existing between the two countries. It is not a matter of any vital importance. The Japanese postal service in China is to be conducted as at present until the supplement has been signed. Any delay in the negotiations on this question will have little effect on the postal service. On the matter of the telegraphs, the views of the two Governments have likewise come within measurable distance of solution, only a point or two still remaining unsettled. The Japanese telegraphic service in Manchuria is working satisfactorily and no obstacles are now met with. This question is not of such a nature to make the hurrying on of the settlement a matter of first importance, and the delay in the negotiations can cause no special inconvenience to Japan. The dispute between Japan (on behalf of Korea) and China regarding the border district of Chientao is still a matter of negotiation, it is true, but as has already been explained in this journal, that is a very ancient dispute, and now that the excitable underlings on both sides have been checked, it is not likely that the central authorities will fail to effect a permanently amicable settlement—though not so quickly, perhaps, as impatient outsiders seem to think desirable. Authority has been claimed further for the statement that concerning the matter of the Customs in North Manchuria with the object of putting goods coming into China overland on the same level as those by sea, an intimation was received in Tokyo recently that a Customs House had been opened. While it is to be regretted that the opening was delayed for so long, now that the Customs House has actually been opened, all complaints should cease. Should any delinquencies occur in the operation of the Customs in North Manchuria the Government would be prepared to do its utmost to rectify matters. The question of the working of the Peng-chihui colliery is still unsolved because it is as yet undecided in which direction the track of the Mukden-Antung Railway shall be laid. The colliery question itself could be settled at any time, but circumstances did not allow of the completion of negotiations until a decision was arrived at concerning the Mukden-Antung railway.

Prior to the incident of the "Tatsu Maru," in fact, it was claimed that all questions outstanding between China and Japan were either settled or in a fair way to be settled. Apparently China for her part has discovered that there is no profit in attempts to bluff or bully her old vassal, and so far as Japan is concerned, being still on her best behaviour as the cynosure of foreign Powers, she is unlikely to go to any extreme without first having ample excuse. It may be a disappointment to the sensation-mongers to see a peaceful settlement of all their disputes, but no one else will regret it if (as we hope) there is not to be a rupture. Evidently in Tokyo last evening the boulevardiers were showing excitement, and this tension had been communicated to our representative in the Japanese capital, who very properly lost no time in informing

us of what he heard. The suggestion of the messages is too grave, however, to be hastily accepted, and we trust that in the course of the next day or two more reassuring news will come.

THE IMPOLITE TRUTH.

Daily Press, March 11th.

We readily publish the letter that appears elsewhere over the signature of the Crown Solicitor, but it may be as well to state clearly that Mr. Bowley does not and cannot mean that the *Daily Press* was responsible for any one of the "many misleading and incorrect statements" he complains of. The technical aspects of the case of *LU KAI-SHING* we have left severely alone, though we believe we were the first to disagree with the Magistrate's decision to extradite him. We did so disagree simply and solely on the evidence. The Crown Solicitor says "if he proves that his surrender has been demanded in order to try or punish him for an offence of a political character, the accused cannot be surrendered." The Magistrate did not think such proof had been given. We did. We therefore urged as strongly as we could that the man *LU KAI-SHING* should not be delivered up to the Chinese. Then, when we somewhat tardily realized that the man had other friends, and that his case was still *sub judice*, we dropped the subject. Recently, finding that after all he was not likely to be handed over to the vindictive hands of Chinese officialdom on a trumped up charge, we let well alone. It was true that he was saved by technicalities, but that did not seem to us to affect the main issue, and we were content to let the lawyers argue points of procedure amongst themselves. Laymen run a certain risk of making "misleading and incorrect statements" when they venture to discuss technicalities about which the professionals differ. There is one direction in which the Crown Solicitor may consider we erred, seeing that he expresses concern about reflections "on the conduct of the Chinese Government and Chinese Officials." On Sept. 14th 1907, we submitted that whether the British indulgence toward political offenders be wise or not, it is there, embodied in the law, and that therefore the only real issue to consider was whether *LU KAI-SHING* was a bona-fide political offender entitled to the protection of the ordinance, or a mere criminal for whose fate we need have no concern. Our weighing of the evidence inclined us to the former view. As we said then, "That the man was a common, thieving, murdering rascal we find it difficult to believe. Who would find the money for the defence of such an one?" And now we may add, "Is it likely that so many respectable Singapore merchants would subscribe and petition on his behalf, if he were not something other than an ordinary criminal?" But we do not suppose any one requires argument on that head now. The Magistrate at that time, as the Crown Solicitor does now, deprecated any implication of motives to the officers of "a neighbouring and friendly power." This kind of squeamishness, where a grave issue is concerned, makes us impatient. Why will men of commonsense play with real life in this sentimental way, instead of looking things frankly in the face? Politeness and delicacy have their value; we would be the last to belittle them; but in (say) rescuing a lady from a deadly peril one does not take her gingerly by the finger-tips with one's hat off and a gently murmured "Permit me, Madame." Scorning humbug, we boldly claimed the right to look

at least into the possibilities of the Chinese demand for this man's rendition. At the same time we frankly showed that in so doing we were not moved by loathing or contempt of the Chinese. We simply faced the truth, and recognised their point of view. "None but an uncommonly scrupulous man," we said, "is going to be aghast at Russia or China if, in their anxiety to get hold of some serious political offender, they adopt some such machiavelian method of getting round the, to them, inexplicable squeamishness of the British where a political offender's fate is concerned. We are not shocked by it, but as commonsense individuals we would keep our eyes open for it, and see to it carefully that our ideas of justice are not so circumvented." If that sort of plain, horse sense does not count for far more than the finicking nicety of some of those who have been splitting straws while *LU KAI-SHING*'s life hung in the balance, it ought to. The Crown Solicitor may be right in pointing out the errors of the amateur lawyers, which we were certainly never foolish enough to risk, but we think his tenderness for Chinese officialdom quite absurd and uncalled for, and want to say so as plainly as we can. The worst of it is that these gentlemanly qualms are merely legal and conventional. We honestly believe that "in his heart of hearts" Mr. Bowley, with his knowledge of Chinese ways, would never dream of repudiating the possibility of such applications being made in bad faith. That is all we want men to admit, honestly. Then it is easy to go on to the point we made last year, that "it is not only 'open' to us to consider such a suggestion, but our duty to take it up" and investigate it, whether the result be for or against the "neighbouring and friendly Power." In this case, we still think the evidence was against the good faith of the Chinese applicants, and we see no real reason why it is not right to say so.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

(Daily Press, March 12th.)

We do not pretend to know in what waters precisely the "Tatsu Maru" was seized. We share the one disability of those who have been writing so cockaboo regarding the facts—that is to say, we were not there to see. We understand that the friends of China and some of the enemies of Japan declare the seizure to have taken place in Chinese waters. We further understand that the Japanese and the Portuguese declare the seizure to have taken place in what were equivalent at least to Portuguese waters. The point is not real and the point is sufficiently in doubt to be debatable. We find it possible therefore to keep cool, and to wait for an authoritative decision as to the fact. Meanwhile, and just to pass the time, we consider the probabilities as disinterestedly as we can. We eliminate the Chinese claim. We eliminate the Japanese claim. We then point out that the action of the Macao Government, the official Portuguese protest to Peking, is *prima facie* in favour of the Japanese contention. So far, that seems to be quite fair and reasonable, does it not?

Next we glance at the smuggling aspect of the incident. The "Tatsu Maru" had a cargo of arms consigned to Macao. It seems to be admitted that the vessel left Kobe with the proper permits from the Harbour and Customs authorities. It seems to be admitted that the consignee was a Chinese subject of Portugal resident in Macao. It seems to be admitted that the Macao authorities knew of the nature of the cargo.

It is not alleged that the unloading was begun in the dark, or with any secrecy. It seems clear that the Chinese Customs, even, were prepared to find what they found. All this looks like very clumsy smuggling. The Cantonese who have been making patriotic demonstrations about it, going even to the usual length of advocating a boycott of Japanese goods if Japan gains its point, cannot be expected in reason to be as judicial as we are trying to be. Still, let us listen to them. They were strong in the belief that the arms were destined for Chinese rebels. Coming to probabilities, we may say that most of us are of the same opinion. Macao does not offer a likely market for many guns. The *China Gazette*, a leader among those who in their eagerness to denounce Japan have been so cheerfully taking facts for granted, says the consignee was "doubtless one of the numerous agents of the malcontents in South China." This is the least unreasonable of the many unreasonable assertions in the *China Gazette's* cunning diatribe. We will even admit it is reasonable, and assume that the consignee did mean to pass these arms on to Chinese malcontents. Again reminding ourselves of the Portuguese protest, of the man's Macao address, we then ask: Where does Japanese responsibility or culpability come in? Could the "Tatsu Maru" have gone alongside a Macao wharf, and there discharged her cargo, would the Chinese have had any ground of complaint? It seems obvious, to us at least, that the responsibility is Macao's, and we point out that Portugal does not disclaim it. Indeed, Portugal admits it. The cunning plea that Japan is by high handed methods preventing China from repressing lawlessness in her own territory therefore must be dismissed.

That brings us now to Japan's complaint. If the arms were brought openly to Macao, and if they were being unloaded as near to the consignee as Macao's unfortunate harbour disabilities permit, it does look as if the Chinese officers, with an eye to the reward (which is not at all improbable) had been a bit too zealous and hasty. The hauling down of the Japanese flag, and the substitution of the Chinese, is one of those intrinsically unimportant details that lash a patriotic people into frenzy. It partakes of the nature of a calculated insult. To follow that up by a bluffing refusal to consider what was admittedly a debatable question was to provide ample excuse for strong action by Japan, and yet, as usual, official Japan seems to have shown and to be still showing exemplary patience. The least outsiders can do is to suspend judgment until there has been some agreement as to facts. We deplore the tendency manifested in some quarters to give rein to a prejudice which is as unfair as it is persistent, as dishonest as it is gratuitous, and as unwarranted as it is painfully obvious.

CHINA AND FOREIGN LITERATURE.

(Daily Press, March 11th.)

On the next page we reprint an interesting article sent to the *Times* by its Shanghai correspondent. At home it will be read as indicating that the Chinese are now absorbing "western thought and ideas," the presumption being that the bulk of these are new and quite foreign to China. That is true only of a small portion of western thought and ideas—most of the ideas worth anything being universal, if we except the more barbarous tribes whose mentality has not developed far beyond thoughts of procuring creature comfort. It seems a

little too much to describe education, history, geography, political economy and the art of government, philosophy, &c., as "subjects hitherto generally undreamt of in Chinese philosophy." Military science has been neglected in China, not because it was "undreamt of," but because Chinese philosophy put it on a plane of unworthiness. Hygiene, perhaps, and the materialist sciences, are new, but taking the general literature mentioned as now in strong demand, we may say that much of it merely presents in their foreign dress ideas already familiar in China. The inability of a polygamous people to understand the "love stories" of monogamous races is explicable enough, and does not prove the suggested mental antipodality of East and West. The Orientals who have once obtained the clue to the puzzle probably appreciate our romances as well, at least, as Occidentals appreciate the Eastern epithalamium in the "Song of Solomon." The Chinese literati have always respected history; that it is mainly foolish history, of the "dry bones" or mythological kind, does not alter the main question. The popular history still taught to Western children is no better, King Alfred and the cakes, King Canute and the tide, and so on, being no more useful than the marvellous heroes of Chinese history. Chinese geographies are also still extant, and remind us forcibly of European geographical essays of a few centuries ago. In "the art of Government" it is questionable if we can teach the Chinese anything at all, in theory at least. We, as well as they, are still far short of the glory of the ideals. As to philosophy, the most striking thing about the modern pursuit of it is to find how closely in agreement are the philosophers of widely separated peoples, and if a competent sinologue were to go through all Western philosophy, underlining every passage and proposition that has its parallel in Chinese literature of the same order, we fancy there would be very little left to figure as exclusively Western. We must get rid of the idea that we are far ahead of China in the matter of thinking out the meaning of life and the art of it. At the same time, we are entirely in sympathy with the writer who would fain see more discrimination in the choice of western writings to be translated for the Chinese. In Europe we would be no worse off for a "burning of the books." There is an immense flood of matter written and printed for no higher purpose than that of enabling thoughtless folk to "pass the time," and as it is produced by grossly imperfect thinkers for those who will not think, it is actually doing a great deal of social harm. Hitherto, China has escaped this. China has a mass of really valuable literature, but familiarity seems to have bred contempt for it. At any rate it seems to have lost its vitality as a moving force. An adage crystallising a good idea, somehow never seems to strike people so much as the same idea freshly presented, and Mr. DYER BALL has pointed out how wise Chinese sayings are often misunderstood and misapplied, merely because they have become commonplaces of speech, rather than factors for reflection. It was interesting the other day to hear a Shanghai Chinaman, startled by the blue sparks from the tram wire, crying, as he ran away, a well known saying, to the effect that "a single spark will set a whole hillside ablaze." That saying originally was designed to affect conduct in quite other and more usual circumstances, but it is questionable if it ever does. We have equivalents for it, but how many of us apply it in our daily conduct toward our fellows, to prevent us

from the smaller lapses that may have great consequences, unforeseen, but inevitable and serious? China already has a good enough and full enough working philosophy to cover all contingencies, providing she could have her desired isolation, and providing she brought practice up to precept. The chief difference between East and West seems to be that the West does not hanker after isolation, and consequently it has learned to keep many of its ideals for contemplative purposes, modifying its conduct to suit the conditions in which it continually finds itself rubbing shoulders with others. So it is not so much "Western thought" that China needs to absorb, as Western practice, if she wants to keep up with the procession.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 9th March.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR F. PIGGOTT) AND MR. J. ORANGE AS ASSESSOR.

A BIG CLAIM.

In the action Lau Yeong Wood and Lam Choy against the Standard Oil Company of New York the plaintiffs claimed for \$70,000 from the defendants alleged to be due for work done and material supplied on defendants' premises at Laichikok. Mr. M. Slade, instructed by Mr. Hastings, of Messrs Hastings and Hastings, appeared for the plaintiffs and the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Atkinson, from the office of Messrs Deacon, Looker and Deacon appeared for the defendants.

Mr. Slade, in opening, said that the question which his Lordship had to decide was the amount of work which had been done by the plaintiffs in this action. The question as to whether any clauses of the contract could be relied upon as a defence to this action as set up in the statement of defence had already been decided by his Lordship in the negative. His Lordship had decided that the contract had been rescinded and that the plaintiffs had a right to recover the value of the work done.

Mr. Pollock—I must not be taken as admitting this.

His Lordship—No, no.

Mr. Slade said that was the decision of this Court in July last. Apart from the defences based upon the terms of the contract the defendants assert that the damage which was done to these works by the typhoon of 18th September 1906 was caused by the negligent way in which the plaintiffs had executed the work, that is to say that the works were weaker than they ought to have been and therefore fell easily before the fury of the elements. Plaintiffs' reply to that defence was that the works which were executed by the 18th September had been executed in accordance with the designs of the engineer in charge of the works but that by reason of the faulty nature of the design the works were weak and insufficient. Then the defendants claim to have been entitled to turn plaintiffs off the work by reason of the delays in carrying out the work, because they said there were not sufficient men employed thereon, but plaintiffs' replies to that were manifold. Plaintiffs aver that defendants were insisting upon them to repair the errors in design at their expense and that the delays were caused by the faulty estimate of the quantities required. Defendants gave them quantities which were considerably exceeded, and there was an enormous difference between the amounts called for and those required. The delay was also caused by the egregious mistake in selecting the place where foundations were to be laid for the pier. The line had to be altered no fewer than five times and each time they had to bring the work to the surface of the water. Then they were given a new line and had to put in more stones in a new place. The delay was also caused by a mistake in surveying, details of which would be given later, whereby the plaintiffs had to put in 9½ inches all over the work, extra filling, extra walls, extra height etc., and

for which defendants would not pay anything. In consequence of these mistakes involving extra work plaintiffs' resources were crippled and they could not put on the additional men when defendants asked them. If those mistakes had not been made plaintiffs would have had the works completed within contract time. Mr. Slade then proceeded to explain the case in greater detail with the aid of plans, etc.

The hearing was adjourned.

Wednesday, 11th March.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A MISTAKE IN PRINTING.

The Union Trading Company sued the On Log Company for a balance alleged to be due under a contract in regard to the purchase of goods on commission. Mr. R. F. C. Master of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr. Grist of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, for the defendants.

Mr. Grist said the defendants denied indebtedness in regard to the bottles supplied—\$498—because the name was wrongly printed on the bottles. It was placed upside down and if the defendants used such bottles they would incur the ridicule of the Colony.

Mr. Master argued that the defendants would not suffer through the name being so printed as the bottles were usually hung upside down.

His Lordship—The bottle has a flat bottom as it must be intended to stand occasionally.

Mr. Master said the specimen of the name supplied by the defendants had been sent home, since the bottles had arrived defendants had paid certain moneys on account of the contract.

Mr. Grist said the moneys were paid in respect of other goods supplied. Not one cent had been paid for the bottles. The question was whether his Lordship thought they should take delivery of bottles that would hold them up to ridicule.

His Lordship—Not if you repudiated at the proper time. If this was a heathen language to the people in England they should have found out what the characters meant.

Mr. Grist—The agents out here ought to have instructed them properly.

Mr. Master said he would call evidence to show that people would buy bottles just the same although the name was upside down.

His Lordship—Then you had better sell the bottles to them. I hold, at present, that the bottles are marked wrongly, and that they are meant to stand and not to hang.

Judgement was given for defendants.

ALLEGED INFRINGEMENT OF TRADE MARKS.

At the Magistracy on March 6th a summons was heard by Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz against the master of the Kwong Sang shop, 24½ Des Vœux Road Central, for a breach of the Ordinance relating to trade marks. Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Mr. Deacon of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared to prosecute, and defendant was represented by Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C. (instructed by Mr. G. K. Holmes).

P. S. Watt having given evidence to having served the summons at the Kwong Sang shop on a man who said he was the master,

Mr. Slade asked for a warrant to issue for the arrest of the defendant—

Sir Henry said he appeared under protest and if the protest were overruled.

Mr. Slade—I object. No man can appear without stating for whom he is appearing.

Sir Henry—Yes, he can. I will give you authority.

His Worship—I would like to hear your authority.

Sir Henry then quoted a certain case, and proceeding, said—The objection I take is that the summons is invalid because it is not directed to any person by name.

His Worship—Nothing has been stated yet. I will hear you as to whether I can hear you.

Sir Henry—I appear for the persons named the masters of the Kwong Sang, to take objection to the validity of the summons.

His Worship—You said now you appear for the master of the Kwong Sang firm?

Sir Henry—Yes under protest for the purpose of taking objection.

His Worship—I will note your objection.

Sir Henry—The objection I take is that the summons is not a valid summons because it is not addressed to any person by name but merely to the masters of the Kwong Sang firm. The court has no jurisdiction to hear any complaint on a summons thus directed inasmuch as the Magistrates' Ordinance requires that the summons shall be directed to the person against whom the complaint is made. There is no provision in the Merchandise Marks Ordinance under which the complaint is made which authorises a departure from the Magistrates' Ordinance. I submit there is a clear requirement that the name of the person be placed on the summons and that it is enough to address it to the master or owner of the house. There is no difficulty in ascertaining the names of the firm.

Mr. Slade—You know it is the most difficult thing in the world.

Sir Henry—There is no difficulty. We are registered in respect of Florida water. If you will go to the Colonial Secretary's office you will get the names of the Kwong Sang who are registered.

Mr. Slade—Yes the names of two people who are out of the Colony.

Sir Henry—No matter. There it is. I have taken objection. The masters of the Kwong Sang are registered as the people who hold this shop. It is very easy to find their names. My objection is a technical and legal one. Supposing there was a Green Man Hotel you could not issue the summons to the proprietor of the Green Man Hotel and neither could you issue a summons to the masters of the Kwong Sang unless the particular Ordinance under which you were proceeding was your justification. I ask you Worship to dismiss this summons.

Mr. Slade—If the person is not known, then it is sufficient to address the summons so that the person to whom it is addressed will know that it is addressed to him. The name is only a means to describe a certain person, and as we know a Chinaman has many names. Every adult Chinaman has at least three names, any one of which will describe him.

His Worship—Supposing Sir Henry's objection fails, can I issue a warrant for the arrest of people whose names I do not know?

Mr. Slade—You know the names now. We ascertained the names when the summons was served.

His Worship said he did not like the form of the summons.

Mr. Slade—I ask you to amend it now.

Sir Henry—You cannot do it now.

His Worship—The summons has been served.

Mr. Slade—It can be amended.

Sir Henry said that the proper thing for complainants was to have brought an action restraining defendants from using the trade mark which complainants alleged defendants were infringing. He was taking the objection in order that they might see that was the proper thing to do. They had no right to take criminal proceedings against men for doing to-day what they have been doing for years.

Mr. Slade—I would ask your Worship not to listen to my friend. This is a most flagrant violation of our trade mark.

His Worship—My own impression is that the summons is not a good one.

Mr. Slade thought that it was, but at any rate, it was easy to make it a good one by amending it. The defendants, he explained, in order to prevent damage by having all that stuff taken from their premises to the Police Station, gave an undertaking to deposit a sum of \$1000. If his Worship dismissed the summons that undertaking was rendered useless. They would get rid of all the stuff before a warrant could be issued.

His Worship said it was an important matter and he would reserve his decision. After further argument,

Sir Henry decided to waive his objection and the summons was amended by the insertion of the names of Leung Lam and Lun Shun Tin.

Mr. Slade then opened at length. He stated that application was made to register complainants' Florida water in 1900, but it was found

that Eugene Rimmel had had a similar registration, and the application was refused. Correspondence followed between Messrs. Lanman and Kemp and the other parties concerned and last year the application for registration in Hongkong was granted. In November of last year complainants became aware that their trade mark was being infringed and that defendants were selling scent in a bottle similarly made up and labelled as their own.

His Worship asked if he was hearing that case summarily by consent.

Sir Henry replied in the affirmative and said that he ought to protect his Worship from a pitfall. He ought to ask him (Sir Henry) that he had a right to be tried by a jury.

This was done, and Mr. Slade proceeded to say that the bottles of scent sold by the defendants were calculated to deceive purchasers.

Sir Henry afterwards raised the further point that complainant was not the proprietor of a registered trade mark.

His Worship took a note of it.

Evidence was called, and the case ramanded

MISSIONS TO SEAMEN.

PUBLIC MEETING.

MUNIFICENT GIFT BY MR. MODY.

A public meeting held at the City Hall on March 13th in furtherance of the interests of the Missions to Seamen was largely attended. H.E. the Governor presided and was supported on the platform by Admiral Sir W. Moore, the Right Reverend Bishop of Victoria, Hon. Mr. H. Keswick, Rev. J. H. France, Mr. H. A. Brackenbury, (secretary to the Governor), Mr. Murray Stewart, Mr. D. R. Law. Others present included Sir Paul Chater, Hon. Mr. E. Osborne, Mr. N. Mody, etc.

The Rev. J. H. FRANCE opened the proceedings with a short historical statement. They were met, he said, not to embark on a new enterprise, but to endeavour to quicken an already existing enterprise.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR said—I have been asked to propose the first resolution which is as follows:—"That in the opinion of this meeting the time has come when steps should be taken to acquire a site and to raise a fund for the purpose of building a permanent institute to replace the present unsuitable wretched premises." That, ladies and gentlemen, is the object with which we have come here this evening and that object his Lordship the Bishop of Victoria and Admiral Moore have kindly consented to speak on and explain fully the objects which the Seamen's Institute has been founded to carry out. I will not delay you many minutes myself but in order to explain to any here who do not know the general scope of the Institution I would just say a few words in order to discriminate it from two other institutions of a similar nature in Hongkong, the Sailors Home and the Soldiers and Sailors Home. The Sailors Institute was founded with the object of providing a home where seamen might obtain lodgings for a night or two at cheap rates. The Institute is run on temperance lines. No liquor is sold and the bringing of liquor into the home is discouraged. Forms of recreation, such as billiards, bagatelle, etc., are provided, and concerts and other entertainments are, from time to time, arranged. The men have also an opportunity of enjoying the best companionship of their comrades and getting decent literature. Light refreshments are also to be obtained. The Institution is run by an influential committee and has a branch at Kowloon. Financially I see by its records that its expenditure and receipts balance out somewhere near \$20,000 a year. It is practically self-supporting but, of course, when it is a question of building a new house or acquiring a new site, a large capital expenditure is needed and it is necessary for the institution to ask for help from the outside public. This, as you will learn from the resolution I have just read, is the case now, and the Institution wishes to make an appeal to those interested in seamen to enable them to acquire a new site and get certain endowments to put their funds on a better basis. We are all proud, ladies and gentlemen, of saying that Hongkong is the largest port in the world

except London. There is no need for me to emphasise to you the great necessity in a colony like this for an institution in aid of merchant seamen. I see from the last published statistics for 1906, that there were 71,258 seamen who passed or repassed through this port. About half of these were British. The Institution is not confined to British mercantile seamen but is open to the mercantile seamen of all nations without discrimination and also to the men of the Royal Navy. As you know there are about 4000 British bluejackets in the China Squadron and they are constant visitors. In the three years that the Institution has occupied the present premises there have been 30,000 visits by seamen to it. About 15,000 beds have been occupied during the last year. The site is a very bad one, at the far end of the Eastern Praya, and the site at Kowloon is even worse because it has been crowded in by Chinese houses. I think that I can recommend to you to support most heartily the project we have met here to discuss. It is worthy in every way of our support and I hope the proceedings here to-day will result in a very liberal subscription towards the new site it is hoped to get. I will only say one other word before I sit down. As a result of legislation in the Colony in 1905 we have been able to abolish and get rid of that disreputable class of seamen called beachcombers. Therefore I may say that the class of men who frequent this Institute are honest hardworking seamen and men who should be encouraged, as they are the men to whom we owe our commercial and naval supremacy. I will now ask Mr. D. R. Law to second the resolution which I have proposed. (Applause.)

Mr. LAW said—Your Excellency, Admiral Moore, my Lord Bishop, Ladies and Gentlemen. After the very interesting and exhaustive speeches by His Excellency and the Rev. Mr. France there is little for me to say beyond expressing the great pleasure it affords me to second His Excellency's resolution. The object of our meeting this afternoon is one which must appeal to all of us, our existence and wealth as an Empire depend almost entirely upon our sea borne commerce and the Navy which safeguards it. This is especially true of Hongkong, depending entirely as it does upon the shipping for all its supplies. The shipping again, (ladies) and gentlemen, has to rely ultimately upon the men who man it, and as their life is one which cuts them off to a great extent from home life and its restraints and compensations, whilst it exposes them to many temptations in places where they are homeless and friendless, there is an undoubted obligation upon us to provide something to counteract the temptations and make up for the disabilities incidental to their calling. A good institute, well-found, bright, cheery and comfortable, where men may read, write, smoke, play billiards and other games, and meet with their fellow beings, is one of the best agencies that can, under the circumstances, be employed. The present institute at Wanchai has done and is doing much good work, but it has done it under difficulties, and in a different position, and with more suitable buildings, much more could have been done. We therefore come before you this afternoon confidently relying upon you for sympathy, co-operation and assistance in carrying to a successful conclusion the scheme outlined by His Excellency and the Rev. Mr. France. Having put their hand to the plough, the committee do not intend to turn back until they have accomplished their ambition to remove the reproach that at present attaches to Hongkong in not having a thoroughly well found institution to which to welcome sailors visiting these shores. With the kind patronage and sympathy of His Excellency the Governor, and the active personal interest that Admiral Moore and Bishop Lander have promised to exert on our behalf in the old country, the committee are hopeful that they may not have to wait long before obtaining sufficient subscriptions to justify them in buying the ground and starting the building. Just one word more, ladies and gentlemen, Hongkong owes a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. France (applause) for the enthusiastic, self-sacrificing work that he has done during many years for our sailors. He is beloved by the whole sea faring community, and by all who are interested in the good work he is carrying

on in Hongkong, he is justly admired and held in the highest respect. Mr. France is determined to have this institution out of us by hook or by crook, and he is a difficult man to thwart in this praiseworthy effort on behalf of the men to whom he has devoted his life. I am sure he will regard it as a great personal compliment and a better souvenir of his services than anything else we can offer, if we enable him to obtain his heart's desires for our sailors. It is a noble work he is engaged in and we cannot show our appreciation of it better than by unanimously resolving to assist by every means in our power to obtain the funds necessary for carrying through the scheme with credit to the Colony. Ladies and gentlemen, I have very much pleasure in seconding the resolution proposed by His Excellency the Governor. (Applause.)

The resolutions was carried unanimously.

Admiral MOORE said—I have much pleasure in moving the second resolution which I will read:—"That the members of the existing Committee of the Mission to Seamen together with Commodore Stokes, the Hon. Mr. Keswick, and Sir Paul Chater form a Building Committee and that Sir Paul Chater be requested to act as Hon. Treasurer, to collect subscriptions." (Applause). The Hon. Treasurer is a very important post and if Sir Paul consents to act he will be a tower of strength. There is a twinkle in Sir Paul's eye which I think promises well. Having seen the work of these institutes in other parts of the world I would like to say a few words about them. This pamphlet tells very well what are its objects. Surely they ought to appeal to all of us? We know how much we are indebted to seamen. That has already been pointed out. It has been said that the prosperity of this country depends on our over-sea trade and the prosperity of Hongkong certainly does. This work has to do with the men who man the ships. Now in these days people travel all over the world. They think nothing of taking a ticket at London for Yokohama and running round the world. They never have any misgivings that they will arrive at their destination. No. They have perfect confidence in the men who man the ships, and they ought to be grateful to the personnel to whom they are indebted for such a passage. These ships do not travel without men to drive them. Your safe passage depends upon the skill of the officer in navigation, of the lookout kept in thick and foggy weather, in the hard work of the stokers down below and when they come to port surely there is something due to these men who have been working for you. This is what I think should appeal to all of us. I would say a word to those directly interested in shipping. The shipowners depend for their profits on the safe conduct of their ships to carry produce from over the seas. It is their own people in the ships to whom they look to bring the ships and what I have said about passengers on ships applies also to the owners. I am speaking now of the mercantile marine to which this work is mainly directed but I do not forget His Excellency has already told us and I am most grateful for the kind welcome which the Institute has given to our men in the Navy and the untiring efforts of the chaplains to get up entertainments and generally look after them. Take the other side now. When these men come into port after a long voyage—and many of the ports are not desirable places—they have practically nowhere to go. They see certain houses. They see a bar, a bar with an array of bottles. We have all seen it. The bottles on the top shelf has a particular brand which will send a man into oblivion in a short time. I daresay before he arrives at that state he will make himself unpleasant and may wish to paint the town red, but he will arrive at it before long. I have been in many ports myself and have been struck with the fact that men on landing did not know where to go. Some people look upon the sailor as a man who likes a glass and takes more than he can stand. That is not so. You will find the large majority of seamen are only too thankful if they can get a good bed and a quiet place where they can read. That is what the institute provides. My experience of the work of the institutes is this. When one is established

in a place and the sailors have once had a bed there they come back whenever they have the opportunity, and, I think Mr. France will endorse my statement, when I say that there are not always beds enough as the men are so anxious to get some quiet place to which they can go. It seems to me wrong that Mr. France and other mission people should go round seeking for aid in this work. I think we should run after them. If I were a shipowner and realised that the success of the voyage depended on the personnel of the men I should be most thankful for some one to look after the men when they are in port. Some people misunderstand the mission. It is under the direction and influence of our church and there is one room in the institute set apart for a religious service which those who wish may attend. I think I am right in saying that the Institute is open to all seafaring men without respect of creed or race. There is no obligation to attend the service. The men are all welcomed. I attended a board of the Admiralty when they wanted to get an institute in a certain port. They wanted money. We came to the conclusion that at that port which had a bad name that it was a desirable thing. It was the policy of the Admiralty to assist such institutes in the interest of discipline and efficiency and so they said they would put down pound for pound with that subscribed. It would be a good thing if some of the shipping firms would do the same. I have seen the work of these institutes in all parts of the world and can assure you it is a thoroughly good work and worthy of your support. (Applause.)

The BISHOP OF VICTORIA in seconding the resolution remarked that a good deal had been said about the work of Mr. France, and he felt that the enthusiasm of that meeting was a testimony to the splendid work of that gentleman. He had been told by the Mission to Seamen in London that he should send Mr. France home at once. (Laughter.) He told Mr. France of that as soon as he arrived, but Mr. France would not go (laughter) but said he was going to stay another twelve month. Well he was sure that they were all glad of that—in spite of Mr. France's disobedience to his Bishop (laughter and applause). He had been reminded by Mr. France that his duty at that meeting was to draw the money (laughter). If there was one man in the hall he would give a good subscription that would cheer others he was sure the Committee would work thoroughly and get in all the money desired (applause).

The resolution was carried unanimously.

SIR PAUL CHATER said he would have great pleasure in accepting the post of Hon. Treasurer to the fund which it was proposed to raise. He would be delighted to help in so good a cause and felt confident, knowing as he did the generosity of the people of Hongkong that there will be little difficulty in raising a satisfactory sum (applause).

Mr. MOY said: Your Excellency, My Lord Bishop, Admiral Moore and Gentlemen, before we leave the hall I crave permission to say a few words. I have listened with great interest to all that has been said at this meeting on behalf of the Mission to Seamen, an object which I hold to be worthy of our deepest sympathy and liberal support, since to the merchant seamen our Empire owes so much—braving as they do in the interests of our Empire's mainstay, its commerce—the perils and dangers of the mighty deep. Shall we not then in this Colony do all we can to acknowledge our debt of gratitude to them, show them that their services are understood and appreciated in this the second shipping port of the world? Assuredly we must and will. (applause). I had the pleasure yesterday to meet the Rev. Mr. France who as Chaplain to the Mission here has done such splendid work, and I learned a great deal from him of the work and needs of the Mission. He told me, as we have heard this afternoon, that it was proposed to purchase a site and to erect thereon a Seamen's Home, at a cost of about some \$80,000 if the necessary funds could be raised. That the money will be raised I have no doubt, this meeting is a guarantee thereof. (applause) Your Excellency I am but a humble member of this Community, though the oldest resident of the Colony to-day. It is here that I have made my home for many years past, and I naturally

take a deep interest in the welfare of the Colony and its institutions. Speaking does not come easy to me, but I should like if I may be allowed to do so, to do something to help this cause, and to say that, should the amount necessary for the purchase of the site be forthcoming, it will afford me infinite pleasure to erect and present to the Mission a suitable building thereon at a cost of \$35,000. (Applause.)

The BISHOP OF VICTORIA said he could not sit still (laughter), but he wished to move that, after Mr. Moy's generous offer, he be asked to join the Committee that had already been appointed (applause).

Rev. Mr. FRANCE seconded. He wished to express his gratitude for Mr. Moy's generous offer but could not find words. They knew how he felt, and he would just leave it at that.

The Hon. Mr. KESWICK moved and Hon. Mr. OSBORNE, seconded a vote of thanks to H. E. the Governor which was carried unanimously. This concluded the proceedings.

VICTORIA BRITISH SCHOOL.

The distribution of prizes took place at this school yesterday when a large number of parents and others interested attended to participate in the ceremony. Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe presided, and H. E. the Governor, who presented the prizes, was accompanied by Mr. Brackenbury.

In an interval of the programme, the Headmaster, Mr. W. H. Williams, read his report for the year 1907. At the outset he referred to the attendance, stating that the school had been opened 177 times during the year and that the low figure was due to the school having been closed for structural alterations and that the low attendance in summer made it advisable to close the school. The highest number on the roll at any one time was 59. The total expenditure under salaries and other charges amounted to \$6165 and the total amount received in fees was \$1167.50 the nett cost for maintenance being \$4987.50, and as the average attendance was 50 the nett cost to the Government per child per annum was \$111, which was a high figure compared with \$3.33 for each scholar at Queen's College. The headmaster dwelt on the importance of boys in the upper forms remaining longer at school, and went on to justify the location of the school, the site being healthy and the position central in view of the fact that the children came from a very extensive area. He proceeded to indicate the progress which examinations had disclosed in most subjects in the curriculum, and mentioned that the school games had been well patronised. He also read the report of Captain Thomson on the attendance of the cadets at the Volunteer Camp last year and concluded with an acknowledgment of the good work done by the teaching staff.

HIS EXCELLENCY then addressed the gathering. He said—Before I distribute the prizes I should like to say a word or two, but I will not keep you long, as the exhaustive and interesting report of the headmaster covers, I think, almost every point to be touched upon. During the last few months it has been my privilege to distribute the prizes at a considerable number of schools in this Colony and it has been an invaluable and most interesting task to me inasmuch as it has enabled me to get in touch with the system of education in the Colony and with the special functions of the different schools. To-day I find myself present in this school for British boys and girls, the only British one in Hongkong, always remembering of course the corresponding one at Kowloon, and though it comes last on my list I think you will agree with me it is one of the most important in the Colony, the school which is devoted to the education of the children of our own race and blood. I do not undervalue schools for infants but it is manifestly much more important that adequate education should be afforded to boys of more advanced years and therefore I listened with great interest to what the headmaster just read to us. I endorse most fully all that he said regarding the urgent necessity for parents, if they possibly can, allowing their boys to remain a little longer at school. The advantage of a boy remaining at

school a little longer is one which will remain with him all through his life because he will be able to go into the world better equipped and with a better chance of success in life and will look back in after life with more gratitude to his parents who provided him with this better equipment. In this connection I would say one other word to you who are here and to those who may read my remarks—that is, I hope you will take advantage of the Technical Institute which used to be called the Evening Continuation Classes, and that you will see that your sons attend those classes during the months that this school is closed as well as after leaving school. They would then be able to pick up special knowledge in whatever branch of education would be most suitable to them in their future careers. I take great interest in the Technical Institute and I hope to see special progress in that department of education in the Colony. To-day is practically the third anniversary of this school. It opened on March 2th, 1905. During the first year the pupils numbered 51. They have now reached 71, with an average attendance during the months the school is open of 45. I should like to see that attendance increased but still I think that figure is fairly good. Certainly I think we may say that this school is most favourably situated and that its surroundings are as charming as any school in the Colony. We hope shortly to remove the bamboo nursery in front and throw that into the playground which will give more room for sports and games. I am delighted that the boys are keen on sport and ready to challenge any other school at any sport. The headmaster has told us of the good progress that has been made in the work of the school. I congratulate those four boys who passed the Oxford Preliminary Examination on the occasion of the first time that any pupils have been sent from this school to that examination and I also congratulate the five boys who remain longer at school, and attend the Technical Institute. The headmaster also mentioned with regard to the position which I have laid so much stress that there was an improvement in the number of boys remaining at school, the number increasing from 6 to 11. I hope we shall be able soon to select a good site for the miniature rifle range which will afford valuable instruction and amusement in shooting with the Morris tube. I hope to see schools sending out boys capable of shooting well. I saw some of your cadets at Stonecutters recently where they were learning the semaphore drill in addition to rendering first aid to the wounded and simple physiology and I think that is likely to make the boys of this school in future able to take part in the defence of the Empire, if called upon (applause).

The programme included choruses and recitations by the pupils and scenes from "Midsummer's Night Dream," all of which were cleverly rendered.

Votes of thanks concluded the proceedings.

The prize list was as under:—Lower School—Infants, Dorothy Morris and Arthur Gibson; Class I, Ada Dickson, John Brett, and Fred Halton; Class II, Rosie Mitchell, Colin McDonald, and E. Wilkinson; Class III, Edgar Dacey, Jessie Rodger, and Geo. Rodger; Class IV, Jessie McNeil, Jessie Stokes, E. Brett, and John Brett. Upper School—Class V, (Top boys), Ivan Gibson; Marked Progress, Geo. Baker and Geo. Hobbs. Composition; Randolph Scott. Class VI, Arithmetic, Geo. Stokes; General Knowledge Geo. Hoskins; General Proficiency, M. McNeil; Mathematic M. Silverstone; Headmaster's Prize to "Dux" of School, M. McNeil.

WEDDING.

A quiet wedding took place at the Cathedral on March 12th when Mr. James R. Smith, chief manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, was married to Miss Edith A. Mountjoy Sanders, daughter of Mr. James Sanders, of South Merton, England, and sister of Dr. Sanders of the Matilda Hospital. Bishop Lander, assisted by the Rev. F. T. Johnson, M.A., conducted the ceremony. The bride, who was given away by Dr. Sanders, was supported by Miss Schoch, while Mr. H. E. Hunter acted as best man. In the afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Smith left for Japan where the honeymoon is to be spent.

COMPANIES.

HONGKONG MILLING COMPANY.

The third ordinary general meeting of the Hongkong Milling Company Limited, was held at the Company's Offices, King's Building on March 7th. Mr. A. H. Rennie, presided and there were present Sir Paul Chater, Mr. E. Shellim, H. N. Mody (Directors), Messrs. J. Orange, H. Percy Smith, A. H. Ough, F. H. Chard, N. Yabuyashi, W. Hughes, Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, Tin Ian Kok, Leung Koon Tai.

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen.—The report and accounts to the end of 1907 have now been in your hands for the past 11 or 12 days, and with your permission, I will take them as read. I hope you will agree with me that the result of the working is satisfactory for the first year of a Company such as this, which introduces a new industry into the Colony. The conditions throughout the year have been distinctly unfavourable, the large stocks of American and Australian flour, which amounted to over 5,000,000 bags in 1907, having exercised a very depressing effect on our prices, which are much below the level justified by the advance in wheat. The outlook for the current year is more promising; the demand for our product continues so strong that we have difficulty in keeping pace with it. As stated in the Directors' Report, our ice plant will be in running order by the beginning of April. The Hongkong Ice Company have contracted to take the whole of our output for a period of ten years, and we anticipate that this branch of our business will prove very profitable. I am glad to say that everything is going smoothly at the mills; our Diesel engines and milling plant are in perfect condition, and there is no sickness among our employees. A profit of \$161,262.76 in the first eleven months of our working proves that we have established the business on a sound basis, and I confidently believe that at our next meeting we will be in a position to propose a handsome distribution of profits, but in view of the facts that it was our first working year and that we are still expending a considerable amount on capital account, my Directors recommend that we pay off our debit of \$77,034.57 and carry forward \$82,766.99 to credit of this year's account, which, I trust, will meet with your approval. I now beg to move that the report and statement of accounts at 31st December 1907, be received, approved, and adopted.

Mr. ORANGE in seconding, said:—I have had a great deal of experience in commencing new companies but I think that this is almost the first occasion to my knowledge that a debit of \$77,000 has been transferred into a credit of \$82,000 in the short space of about eleven months. It may be said that this debit of \$77,000 should not have been put to working account but should have been put to the capital account, because I cannot understand how a company which has not started working can have a working account. Of course it comes to the same thing. I look to the \$77,000 as really a writing off of the capital and in that way it must be considered a very handsome writing off from a capital of only \$1,000,000 and machinery which is put down at \$341,000. The result is that the new company starts after this writing off on the first year with a credit of \$82,000. I think that is a matter of great congratulation, especially to the very energetic manager (applause), with whom I have had close and intimate connections since the commencement of the buildings. I have never come across such an energetic and capable individual as Mr. Rennie, who does not seem to know the meaning of the word "cannot." Difficulties seem to vanish before him. If you go, as I think shareholders ought to go now and then to look at the factory, you will be astonished at the cleanliness, order and neatness in a manufactory which, as a rule, is not particularly noted for cleanliness, at least so far as my experience at Home was concerned. I always found that a flour mill was one of the dirtiest concerns that could be met with. This place at Junk Bay is a model of neatness and the smiling faces and alertness of the Chinese I think will astonish anyone who has been accus-

tomed to manufactories in Hongkong. With these few words I beg to second the adoption of the report.

The CHAIRMAN proposed, and Mr. PERCY SMITH seconded, the confirmation of the appointment of Mr. Shellim as director. Carried.

On the motion of Mr. OUGH, seconded by the Hon. Mr. WEI YUK, Sir Paul Chater and Mr. Mody were re-elected directors.

Mr. H. Percy Smith was re-elected auditor on the proposition of Mr. OUGH, seconded by Mr. Mody.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen—I thank you for your attendance.

THE HONGKONG HOTEL.

The ordinary meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited, was held at the Hotel on March 7th. Mr. W. H. Potts was in the chair and there were also present:—The Hon. Mr. E. Osborne and Dr. Noble (Directors), Captain Clarke, Messrs. P. C. Potts, E. S. Kadoorie, J. Arnold, F. Maitland, E. D. Haskell, A. Turner, E. J. Chipman, Lo Cheung Shui, Chau Nam, and Mr. Mooney, Secretary.

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, With your approval we will accept the report and accounts as read. It is with regret that we have again to place before you an account showing a further reduction in profits, the shortage being over \$18,000.00 as compared with the corresponding period of 1906. This is caused by the continued falling off in those departments which in previous years have proved the most profitable and to the unfortunate collapse of part of the side verandah of the East Wing in August last, depriving the Hotel of the use of many rooms. There does not appear to be any prospect of an early increase in returns as, although the falling off in bars etc. has for the moment ceased, we have now to suffer loss from a further decrease in the rooms available in the old building and in rents of shops vacated and to be vacated shortly. Considerable economy has been effected in the various departments and we expect to make large reductions in the coal bill as soon as the gas engines are working. During the period under review three electric lifts have been installed, also telephones and fire alarm bells on each floor and one new gas engine is in good working order. Your Board have given a lot of time to the consideration of the best building to take the place of the old part of the Hotel and they hope in the next few months to place their recommendations before you when they will have to ask you for new capital. Three schemes were considered and the one finally recommended will I trust be adopted, as, when complete, your Hotel should be in a first class position to meet all requirements of residents and transients for many years to come. Until all tenders are received it is impossible for me to give a reliable estimate of the cost but I would remark that it is likely that the amount of new capital to be called up will exceed the 3 lacs mentioned by your chairman at the last general meeting of the company. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to reply to any questions to the best of my ability.

There being no questions,

The CHAIRMAN proposed and Mr. TURNER seconded, the adoption of the report, which was carried unanimously.

Captain CLARKE proposed the re-election of the Hon. Mr. E. Osborne as director. Mr. MAITLAND seconded, and the motion was carried.

On the motion of Mr. HASKELL, seconded by Mr. P. C. POTTS, Messrs H. U. Jeffries and A. R. Lowe were re-elected auditors.

The CHAIRMAN: We are obliged for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready on application to the secretary.

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE CO.

The thirty-ninth ordinary meeting of shareholders in the above company was held at the offices of the General Managers (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co.). The Hon. Mr. H. Kewick presided, and there were present Sir Paul Chater, Messrs. F. Maitland, H. P.

White, E. S. Gubbay (directors), Captain Clarke, Ho Fook, J. M. C. Machado, A. H. M. da Silva, H. Percy Smith, F. D. A. Gomez, Wong Leung Him, H. L. Hutcheson, W. Hutton Potts and L. M. Lee (secretary).

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen. The report and accounts have been in your hands for some days and I will therefore, with your permission, take them as read. Your Committee have to regret that they have been deprived of the services of Mr. A. J. Raymond whose impending departure from the Colony caused his resignation from the Board on which he had served for some ten years. The vacancy thus created has been filled by inviting Mr. C. S. Gubbay. The result of the year's working (1906) is a profit of \$285,79.95, on which I think we may congratulate ourselves especially in view of the number of serious fires that have occurred since our last meeting. The most disastrous outbreak was of course that in Hakodate, which took place last August and by which a large portion of the town was entirely destroyed and losses were occasioned that taxed the resources of some of the Japanese companies to the utmost. Our own loss was not severe, as a good deal of the property burnt was of a character that we do not insure, moreover the terms of the native companies in Japan and the conditions on which they do business are such as to preclude foreign companies from competing. There are signs however that the great strength of the reserves of the foreign companies has been thrown into prominence by the disaster to which I have alluded and if the representatives in Japan of the native and foreign companies are successful in the efforts which are now being made to produce a satisfactory working agreement there should be opportunities of increasing your business there on safe lines. You will also recollect that in September a serious fire occurred in Kobe, causing the destruction of two first class foreign godowns from loss on which however we fortunately escaped altogether. Three severe fires occurred in Bangkok in the early part of last year heavily involving Fire Insurance companies, and in Manila the destruction in April last of a hemp godown resulted in losses amounting to from four to five lacs of dollars. The position in Shanghai to which my predecessor in the chair made reference last year has undergone an improvement, and it appears that a successful check has been put to the fires in native property which had grown in frequency out of all proportion to both the size and population of the Settlements. The activity of the new Chinese companies has however produced a competition for a certain class of business in the face of which a considerable reduction in the rates would appear to be inevitable and it is impossible to forestall at this period what steps the combined Foreign Fire Insurance Companies may find it necessary to institute. You will be glad to learn that by the recent severe fires in the Kiating and Yuen Ming Yuen Roads Shanghai our loss has proved to be quite trifling. Dealing with the figures for 1906 we have to notice a reduction of \$21,090 in the premium income which I think is traceable to general depression. 1906 was not a year of very active trade and our premium income bears a favourable comparison with that of the years preceding 1905. Losses are just under 44 per cent. of the premium income. Income from interest shows, as is to be expected, a slight advance; other items I think call for no special comment. Your Committee decided to vote a bonus to the staff of 10 per cent upon their salaries and the necessary sum to give effect to this has been debited to "Charges" which I trust has your approval. This is, as you are aware, the first distribution of profits to be made since the revision of the Articles of Association last year and I hope that the proposed dividend of \$7 a share and an appropriation to reserve of \$67,400 will have your approval. It may have been thought by some shareholders that a larger dividend could be paid, but your Consulting Committee will not I venture to think be blamed for considering the necessities of the Reserve Fund which the nature of the business renders it so imperative shall be maintained at a high figure. You will share your Committee's

gratification that the amount carried forward on 1.07 account is again of an encouraging character which augurs well for the final outturn of that year. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall, be glad to answer any questions that you may desire to put.

There being no questions,

The CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report which was seconded by Mr. WHITE, and carried.

Mr. Ho Fook moved, and Mr. WONG LEUNG HIM seconded, the re-election of Sir Paul Chater, Messrs. White and Maitland to the Consulting Committee.

Messrs. W. Hutton Potts and H. Percy Smith were re-elected auditors on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Captain CLARKE.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready this afternoon.

HONGKONG AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN COMPANY.

The twenty-first annual ordinary meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company Limited, was held on March 14th in the City Hall. The Hon. Mr. H. Keswick presided and there were present Sir Paul Chater, Messrs. G. Friesland, A. Fuchs, E. Shellim, A. S. Cousland, G. H. Medhurst, C. S. Gubbay (directors), Hon. Mr. E. Osborne (secretary), Messrs. H. W. Looker, T. F. Hough, W. E. Clarke, F. Smith, H. Humphreys, E. S. Kadoorie, W. H. Wickham, Captain Brown, and E. Ellis.

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, With your permission, I propose to take the report and accounts as read. From the accounts presented you will learn that there was a large decrease in our profits last year, but in view of the very adverse conditions of trade during that year, and in view of the crippling effect of the 1906 typhoon, nothing else could have been expected. The report shows in detail the different items of expenditure involved by that typhoon; you will recognise however that, though the total outlay is large, it cannot be regarded as representing an entire loss for the reason that the major portion has been spent in giving us new wharves, new lighters, and improved godowns in place partially worn and therefore less valuable assets. In view of this expenditure and the future outlay which has still to be met, your Directors cannot recommend the payment of a larger final dividend than 3 per cent making a total of 7 per cent for the year. This is a time for husbanding our resources especially as we may shortly expect further competition and we must be, as we are, prepared to meet it. From its very beginning our Company has had severe competition to face, has met it and overcome it, and when you consider that our clients are also to a large extent shareholders you may look forward with equanimity to the future. We shall undoubtedly have hard times but our business is on sound lines and with the improvement and increase of the trade of Hongkong, which is bound to come, we may reasonably look for more prosperous results. The completion of the Canton Kowloon Railway will be of interest to us, chiefly as a link to the future Hankow-Canton line; your Directors have discussed with the Government the preliminaries for establishing sidings into our property, and it is inconceivable that the Colonial Railway paid for by Hongkong ratepayers will not afford every facility to the Hongkong owned wharf enterprise. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I will be pleased to answer any questions you may wish to put.

There being no questions,

The CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report.

Mr. T. HUGHES said—I rise to second the adoption of the report and accounts. After the explicit manner in which they have been dealt with and the remarks that have fallen from our Chairman anything that I could say about them could not amplify what he has said, and I think we can with every confidence as in the past

leave our affairs in the hands of our directors. With these few remarks I second the adoption of the report.

The motion was carried.

On the motion of Captain CLARKE, seconded by Mr. HUMPHREYS, Messrs. Medhurst and Lensmann were re-elected directors.

The appointment of the Hon. Mr. Keswick, Messrs. Friesland, Fuchs, Shellim and Cousland to the directorate was confirmed on the motion of Mr. SMITH, seconded by Mr. KADOORIE.

Mr. WICKHAM proposed, and Mr. ELLIS seconded, the re-election of the auditors Messrs. W. H. Potts and O'D. Gourdin. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That finishes the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants can be had on application.

The report was as follows:—

The Director beg to submit to shareholders their report with a statement of accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1907.

ACCOUNTS.

The profit on working was \$350,291.37 as compared with \$476,931.17 in 1906, being a decrease of \$126,639.80.

The balance at credit of Profit and Loss account, after paying interim dividend of 4 per cent, and including \$3,047.91 brought forward from last year, is \$173,852.81 which it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—

Directors' and Auditors' fees.....	\$ 10,500.00
Final dividend of 3 per cent.....	59,796.00
Transfer to Depreciation and Repairs account	90,000.00
Transfer to Insurance fund.....	10,000.00
Carry forward to new account	3,556.81

173,852.81

BUSINESS. In almost all branches of the business there was a falling off, the most marked being in stocks of Yarn which fell below the average of some years past.

PROPERTY. The exchange of land with Government was completed, a sum of \$10,261.65 being received for the difference in area of the land exchanged. The floors of the principal godowns have been raised well above high water mark, doors and roofs strengthened, and the damage caused by the 1906 typhoon generally made good. The Praya sea wall has been underpinned from end to end, the face of it foundations strengthened.

WHARVES. No. 2 Wharf, the Ferry Wharf and one small Wharf have been rebuilt, and are now practically new. The Sheers Wharf has been enlarged and the sea bed round the wharves cleared of typhoon debris and deepened so as to afford five berths for large vessels drawn to 25 to 27 feet. West Point Wharf was rebuilt.

RAILWAYS. New rails (including steam crane rails) have been laid the whole length of the Praya thus greatly facilitating the working of cargo.

LAUNCHES. have all been placed in thorough repair and their Engine rooms enclosed. A new launch, the "Albatross," was acquired.

LIGHTERS. have been repaired throughout and steam cranes fitted to three large ones for delivering railway material at Canton.

MACHINERY AND PLANT. A 10 ton locomotive crane for loading heavy timber was acquired, a Lidgerwood engine for pile driving, a portable hand crane and a second hand 5 ton locomotive crane. Also a steel travelling passenger gangway for No. 3 Wharf.

Typhoon of 18th September 1906. The actual expenditure to the 31st December, 1907, was:—

On new lighters and launches necessary for carrying on the work ..	\$328,602.60
On rebuilding wharves and improving the property ..	141,779.87
On repairs and sundries ..	200,750.58

\$671,133.05

DIRECTORS.

The Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Mr. E. Goets, Mr. A. Haupt, Mr. N. A. Siebs and Mr. D. M. Nimim resigned on leaving the Colony. The Hon. Mr. H. Keswick, Mr. G. Friesland, Mr. A. Fuchs, Mr. E. Shellim and Mr. A. S. Cousland joined the Board, and their appointments require confirmation.

Mr. G. H. Medhurst and Mr. C. R. Lensmann retire in rotation, according to the Articles of Association, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. W. H. Potts and O'D. Gourdin have audited the accounts now presented and offer themselves for re-election.

HENRY KESWICK,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 7th March, 1908.

BALANCE SHEET.

To 31st December, 1907.

LIABILITIES.

	\$	c.
To capital 40,000 fully paid up shares at \$50	\$2,000.00	
Less 136 shares not issued	6,800	
	1,993,200.00	
To new capital called up Dec. 31, 1907	924,462.00	
To estate of G. Sharp (deceased)		
Mortgage	156,951.00	
To reserve fund	550,000.00	
To insurance fund	40,000.00	
To Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	634,085.59	
To depreciation and repairs account	26,865.55	
To unclaimed dividends	10,187.00	
To accounts payable	320,970.81	
To directors' and auditors' fees	10,500.00	
To final dividend	59,796.00	
To profit and loss account, balance	3,556.81	
	\$4,730,515.76	

Dec. 31, 1907.

ASSETS.

	\$	c.
By value of land and buildings at Kowloon as per last account	3,170,631.24	
„ since expended on new buildings	58,013.41	
	3,228,644.65	
„ less received from Government for exchange of land	10,261.65	
	3,218,383.00	
„ value of Wharves at Kowloon as per last account	147,351.93	
„ since expended on new wharves	88,354.19	
	235,706.12	
„ value of railways and rolling at Kowloon as per last account	63,830.09	
„ since expended on new rails, etc.	27,170.64	
	91,000.73	
„ value of launches as per last account	57,051.00	
„ since expended on new launch	13,142.50	
	70,193.50	
„ value of lighters as per last account	307,020.88	
„ since expended on new lighters	188,161.73	
	495,182.61	
„ value of machinery and plant as per last account	105,723.19	
„ since expended on new machinery, etc.	32,045.19	
	137,768.38	
„ value of sheer legs as per last account	3,000.00	
„ value of land and buildings at West Point as per last account	263,143.88	
„ value of West Point Wharf, rebuilt	9,922.21	
„ sundry debtors	161,666.65	
„ Hongkong and Shanghai Bank (unclaimed dividends)	10,187.00	
„ cash on hand	632.13	
„ value of coal on hand	3,761.87	
„ value of timber, iron and stores on hand	30,560.38	
	\$4,730,515.76	

Dr. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	\$	c.
To interest	10,563.97	
„ interim dividend	79,728.00	
„ balance appropriated as follows:—		
„ Directors' and Auditors' fees \$10,500.00		
„ Final dividend	59,796.00	
„ Transfer to depreciation and repairs account	91,000.73	
„ Transfer to insurance fund	10,000.00	
„ Amount carried to new account 3,556.81		
	173,852.81	
	\$354,414.78	
Cr.		
By balance from last account	3,047.91	
„ nett earnings for 1907	351,290.37	
„ unclaimed dividends forfeited	937.50	
„ transfer fees	169.00	
	\$354,414.78	

Dr. DEPRECIATION AND REPAIRS ACCOUNT.

	\$	c.
To ordinary repairs, renewals and improvements during 1907	29,731.85	
To 1906 Typhoon repairs	56,614.06	
To balance	26,865.55	
	\$113,211.46	
Cr.		
By balance from last account	23,152.49	
By transfer from profit and loss account	90,058.97	
	\$113,211.46	

RESERVE FUND.

	Dr.	
To balance	\$50,000.00	
By balance from last account	\$50,000.00	

INSURANCE FUND.

	Dr.	
To balance	\$40,000.00	
By balance from last account	\$40,000.00	
By transfer from profit and loss account	30,000.00	
	\$110,000.00	

GEORGE FENWICK & CO.

The nineteenth ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held on March 14th at the Hongkong Hotel. Mr. A. Rodger presided, and there were present Messrs. W. Parlano, G. K. Haxton, J. Forbes, H. Percy Smith, John Rodger, J. McCrquodale, and J. I. Andrew (manager and secretary).

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and statement of accounts having been in your hands for some days, I will, with your permission adopt the usual custom and take them as read. Your Directors regret exceedingly that the result of the year's working under review has been so unsatisfactory and unremunerative. We had anticipated a profit on two large stern-wheel steamers which we built. Unfortunately we were very much disappointed in this respect, as the result showed a loss of nearly \$20,000. This was caused by delay in the first instance, owing to a scarcity of labour, and secondly, by difficulties arising in getting these vessels to come up to the speed contracted for. Consequently, heavy claims were made for demurrage and further expense was incurred in making the necessary alterations. I am glad to say that we continue to get a fair share of the usual work offering both in the harbour and on shore, but on account of the very keen competition met with, the margin of profit has to be cut very fine. The plant, machinery and building have been kept in a fairly good state of repair. Owing to the long and still existing depression in the land and property market, we have been unable to sell, lease or let, any portion of our property, therefore we are still heavily handicapped in having to pay interest on the mortgage, Crown rent and taxes, and receiving no revenue in return, but we can only hope that this depression may shortly vanish and a briskness in business take its place. In consequence of his retirement from the East, we reluctantly part with Mr. Parlano, who has served faithfully on this Board for about seventeen years, and I am sure we all wish him every happiness and success in the future. I may mention that in view of the unsatisfactory result of the year the Directors have waived their usual fees. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be pleased to answer to the best of my ability any question relating to the business before this meeting.

There were no questions, and the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report which was seconded by Mr. McCrquodale, and carried.

Mr. PARLANO moved, and Mr. FORBES seconded that Mr. Haxton be elected to the directorate Carried.

Mr. RODGER moved, and Mr. McCrquodale seconded, that Mr. Percy Smith be re-elected Auditor. This was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. I am sorry to say I can't say there will be any dividend.

The report was as follows:—

The balance at credit of profit and loss account amounts to the sum of \$3,726.91. After payment of Auditor's fees a balance of \$3,726.91 remains which it is proposed to carry forward to new account.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. G. K. Haxton was invited to join the Board during the absence on leave of Mr. W. Parlano. The latter has now resigned in view of his early departure for home. Mr. Haxton retires in accordance with the Articles of Association, but offers himself for re-election.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. H. Percy Smith, who offers himself for re-election.
A. RODGER,
Chairman.

BALANCE SHEET.

31st December, 1907.

LIABILITIES.

	\$	c.
Capital		
15,000 shares of \$25 each	\$375,000.00	
10,800 shares issued and fully paid	270,000.00	
Reserve fund	54,601.99	
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation loan account (secured by mortgages)	126,857.83	
Amount received in advance on account of contract in hand	2,500.00	
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation current account	1,679.23	
Sundry creditors	18,396.29	
Balance profit and loss account	3,876.91	
	\$476,912.25	

ASSETS.

	\$	c.
Value of land and buildings at Waglan and North Point as per last report	300,750.86	
Value of machinery, plant, launches and office furniture as per last report	\$55,501.53	
Additions during the year	2,151.00	
	\$57,742.53	
Sold during the year	115.00	
	67,627.53	
Value of stock in trade as per valuer's certificate	81,521.04	
Value of work in progress as per valuer's certificate	4,434.10	
Cash on hand	230.04	
The National Bank of China Limited	194.69	
Investments	750.00	
Sundry debtors	31,344.50	
	\$476,912.25	

Dr. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	\$	c.
To Salaries	12,725.00	
„ Crown rent and taxes	1,264.20	
„ interest	122.37	
„ balance	3,876.91	
	\$17,988.48	
Cr.		
By balance of last year's account	10,335.94	
„ balance of working account	7,420.53	
„ transfer fees	13.00	
„ bonus from Insurance company	18.01	
„ dividend on investments, etc.	192.00	
	\$17,988.48	

THE SHANGHAI ICE, AND COLD STORAGE CO., LD.

The Directors submit to the Shareholders the audited accounts for the year ended November 30, 1907.

The balance at the credit of Profit and Loss Account is Shanghai Tls. 8,930.19 and from this amount there are Directors' and Auditor's fees to be deducted, leaving a balance of Tls. 8,030.19 out of which your Directors recommend a dividend of three per cent absorbing Tls. 6,000, and carry forward the balance of Tls. 2,030.19.

The balance at the credit of Working Account is Tls. 10,186.94 and, with the keen competition of the "Oriental Ice Company," this result cannot but be considered as satisfactory.

Directors.—Mr. J. Prentice retires according to the Articles of Association but being eligible offers himself for re-election.

Auditor.—Mr. Jas. H. Osborne has returned to Shanghai and resumed his duties as Auditor, which we trust you approve. He is willing to continue his services in that capacity if elected.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

For the Year ended November 30, 1907.

	Tls.
To Depreciation on plant and buildings	8,174.10
To bad and doubtful debts account 1906	1,328.41
To Balance	8,930.19

Tls. 18,432.70

Cr. Tls.

By Balance from 1906 24,995.97

Less—

Directors' fees	750
Auditor's fee	100
Dividend for 1906 16,000	16,850.00
	8,145.97
„ Balance of working account	10,186.94

Transfer fees	35.79
Dividend on sixteen Shanghai Mutual Telephone Co.'s shares for 1906	64.00

Tls. 18,432.70

BALANCE SHEET, November 30, 1907.

Liabilities.

Capital	Tls. 200,000.00
Sundry creditors	5,351.52
Dividends uncollected	1,465.75
Ice tickets in circulation	944.59
Profit and Loss account	8,930.19

Tls. 216,692.05

ASSETS.

Cost of plant, ice boxes, ice boats, etc., as per last report	146,198.94
less proceeds account sale of old fittings	79.76
and depreciation	7,717.53

Tls. 138,401.65

Cost of land buildings as per last report	60,102.91
plus additions	28,950

less depreciation	6,383.41
	456.57

Tls. 59,926.84

Cost of stores, etc., in stock	3,091.65
Fire insurance unexpired	427.90
Cash with Hongkong and Shanghai Bank	8,850.04
Sundry debtors	3,728.22
Suspense Account: Sundries account 1908	1,465.75
Investment in Shanghai Mutual Telephone Co., Ltd., 16 shares at Tls 50.00	800.00

Tls. 216,692.05

Shanghai, March 4, 1908.

GEDDES & Co., Agents.

A. D. LOWE,
J. GRANT MACKENZIE,
JOHN PRENTICE, } Directors.

SHANGHAI GAS CO., LTD.

The report for 1907 (being the 44th since the origin of the Company) reads:—

The Directors have pleasure in presenting the annual report and statement of accounts for 1907. The progress of the Company continues satisfactory. The profit on working account for the year amounts to Tls. 241,567.06, which sum has been transferred to profit and loss account.

The net profit for the year is Tls. 248,951.31.

The balance at credit of profit and loss account, after crediting the account with Tls. 7,994.19 carried forward after appropriation of the profits for 1906, and deducting the amount of Interim dividend at the rate of 7 per cent (Tls. 83,839) paid on 10th July last, amounts to Tls. 173,102.50 of which sum the Directors recommend appropriation as follows:—

To pay a final dividend for the year 1907 on 24,000 shares at 8 per cent (making 15 per cent for the year) Tls. 4.00 per share Tls. 96,000.00.

To write off for depreciation of land and buildings 2,573.46.

To write off for depreciation of manufacturing and distributing plant ... 67,328.54.

To write off for depreciation of furniture ... 596.85

Tls. 70,498.85

To carry forward to new account 6,603.65 |

Consumption.—Private consumption has increased 35,983,200 cubic feet, or 9.19 per cent. The increase in Gas used for Public Lighting has been 1,412,000 cubic feet, or 14.05 per cent.

Gas Engines.—The number of Gas Engines in use is 102, while the increase in Gas used for power was 8,909,700 cubic feet, or 21.51 per cent.

Coal.—There were Tons 4,023.19.0 more carbonized than in 1906 and 47,497,400 cubic feet more Gas produced.

Residuals.—The Coal used during the year being nearly altogether Japanese, which yields a Coke selling at a lower price than Australian, the return for the Coke was less than last year although a greater quantity was sold. There was no demand for Pitch, but Tar and Sulphate of Ammonia were well taken up.

Fittings.—The Fittings Department continues to yield a fair profit on the Capital employed.

Capital.—46 New shares, the balance of last issue, have been sold by the Directors and rank for dividend of 1907, but not having been paid for until after the 31st, December, the addition to Capital account does not appear in the Balance Sheet.

Directorate.—Mr. P. F. Lavers having resigned his seat on the Board on his leaving for England, the Directors invited Mr. E. E. Clark to fill the vacancy. Mr. Clark's appointment requires confirmation at the Ordinary General Meeting. In accordance with the Articles of Association Mr. E. Jenner Hogg retires, but being eligible offers himself for re-election.

Audit.—Owing to the indisposition of Mr. W. H. Anderson, the accounts have been audited by Mr. H. W. G. Hayter. Mr. W. H. Anderson offers himself for re-election.

Summary of the Engineer's Reports to the Directors during the year 1907.

Manufacture. No. 2 Retort House, equipped with electrically driven machinery for handling the Coal, &c., was completed and brought into use in September.

Condensers and Scrubbers to deal with the Gas made in this new house were ordered early in the year, and erection of these is now nearly complete.

Progress with No. 2 Gasholder was somewhat delayed. It was completed and brought into use during January, 1908.

Coal, &c., Carbonized 41,966.42 Tons
Gas Manufactured 495,489,500 Cubic feet.
Yield per Ton 11.806
Average illuminating power 16 Candles.

Distribution.

The rapid development of new districts and the construction of roads leading thereto, has necessitated the greatest length of new and enlarged mains being laid which the Mainlaying Department has ever had to deal with in one year, the total length of mains laid being 121 miles.

Gas sold during the year 461,350,000 Cubic ft.

Gas used at the works, &c., 4,658,700 } 34,139,500
Gas unaccounted for and stock 29,480,800 }

Increase in gas sold as compared with last year 9.59 per cent

Gas unaccounted for in distribution ... 5.98
H. KING HILLER,
Engineer in Chief.

Shanghai 18th February, 1908.

WORKING ACCOUNT For the Year ended 31st December, 1907.

To Manufacture of Gas —	Tls. etc.	Tls. etc.
Coal, &c., carbonized	256,685.72	
Purifying material, oil and sundries	3,030.81	
Salaries and wages	32,581.31	
Repairs and maintenance of works and residences, renewal of retorts and material, fuel for residences and workshops	36,641.31	328,941.14

To Distribution of Gas —	Tls. etc.	Tls. etc.
Wages	13,571.94	
Repairs and maintenance of mains, services and public lamps; municipal charges for repairing roads, and repairs to consumers' fittings	20,884.27	34,456.21

To Management and General Charges —	Tls. etc.	Tls. etc.
Salaries and wages	16,220.65	
Directors' fees	5,000.00	
Auditors' fees	300.00	
Medical attendance	1,000.00	
Printing and stationery	1,786.62	
Rent and other taxes	1,062.62	
Rent allowances	1,262.75	
Fire insurance	5,490.47	
Legal expenses	232.50	

Office and miscellaneous expenses	1,721.09	
Passages	924.79	
Balance being profit on working account	38,630.92	241,567.66
	Tls. etc.	Tls. etc.
By amount of charges for gas	613,571.43	
By residual products:—	559,044.58	
Coke, tar, pitch and sulphate	79,273.60	
fittings account:—		
Profit for the year	5,293.25	

Tls. 613,571.34

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31st December, 1907.

To amount written off for depreciation:—	Tls. etc.	Tls. etc.
To land and buildings	3,541.81	
To manufacturing and distributing plant	49,326.62	
To furniture	459.89	53,328.32
To final dividend for 1906, 7 per cent, on capital, Tls. 800,000 (paid 1st March 1907)	56,000.00	
To dividend on new shares 7954, at Tls. 1.15 per share (paid 1st March 1907)	9,147.19	
To bonus for year 1906 on 16,000 old shares at the rate of Tls. 1.50 per share (paid 1st March 1907)	24,000.00	
Shanghai Gas 2		
To bonus for 2 months of year 1906 on new shares at the rate of Tls. 0.25 per share (paid 1st March 1907)	1,988.50	
To interim dividend for 1907, 7 per cent, on capital Tls. 1,197,700.00 (paid 10th July 1907)	83,839.00	
To interest on debentures:—		
5 per cent on Tls. 100,000 Tls. 5,000.00		
6 " " 100,000 Tls. 6,000.00		
6 " " 200,000 Tls. 12,000.00		
		23,000.00
To bad and doubtful debts	871.71	
To Hongkong agency fees	152.94	
To balance carried forward	173,802.50	

Tls. 425,430.07

By balance	152,454.11	
By transfer fees	97.50	
By interest account (balance thereof)	25,899.32	
By exchange account (dollars being taken at 7/11)	5,316.08	
By dividend received on 24 Shanghai Mutual Telephone Co.'s shares	96.00	
By balance of working account, 1907	241,567.06	

Tls. 425,430.07

RENEWALS AND DEPRECIATION ACCOUNT.

To balance carried forward	Tls. etc.	100,000.00
	Tls. etc.	100,000.00
By balance brought forward from last year	100,000.00	

Tls. 100,000.00

BALANCE SHEET, 31st December, 1907.

Capital account	Tls. etc.
24,054 Shares at Tls. 50 each	1,197,700.00
Share premium account	490,452.55
Debenture account	
5 per cent. issue of 1897 Tls. 100,000.00	
6 per cent. issue of 1899 " 100,000.00	
6 per cent. issue of 1903 " 200,000.00	
	400,000.00
Renewals and depreciation account	100,000.00
Interest payable	1,341.60
Sundry creditors	25,697.42
Deposit from coke contractor	3,060.00
Deposit from tar contractor	365.00
Deposit from compressor	1,500.00
Deposits from gas consumers	83,652.74
Unpaid dividends	24.00
Hongkong and Shanghai bank.	
Balance at debit of current account	84,519.12
Profit and loss account	
Balance at credit thereof	173,102.50

Total Tls. 2,512,414.93

ASSETS.

Land and building for the Manufacture of Gas.	Tls. etc.	Tls. etc.	Tls. etc.
Cost on 31st December, 1906	324,541.81		
Less written off for depreciation	3,541.81		
	321,000.00		
Addition during the year	30,173.46		

381,173.46

Machinery for the Manufacture of Gas.	Tls. etc.	Tls. etc.	Tls. etc.
Cost on 31st December, 1906	576,138		
Less written off for depreciation	15,138.24		
	561,000.00		
Additions during the year	230,344.46		

791,344.46

Main Services, &c., for the Distribution of Gas.	Tls. etc.	Tls. etc.	Tls. etc.
Cost on 31st December, 1906	741,188.38		

Less written off for depreciation	34,183.38	
	707,000.00	
Addition during the year	127,155.45	834,155.45
Plant and Buildings in Construction.		
New Condensers and Scrub- bers	22,414.74	
New W. G. Plant	13,486.48	
New Gasholder, No. 2	127,595.91	163,487.13
Furniture Account:—		
Valuation on 31st December, 1906	5,959.31	
Less Written off for Depreciation	159.89	
	5,800.00	
Addition during the year	596.85	6,396.85
Hongkew House Property Account		9,114.58
Stocks on Hand:—		
Fittings, Gas Engine and Stoves	195,646.23	
Coal, Tar, Purifying Ma- terials and Gas in Holders	39,554.37	235,200.60
Sundry Debtors:—		
Amounts due for Gas, Fit- tings, Coke, Tar, and etc.	88,481.17	
Fire Insurance unexpired	2,407.78	
Shanghai Mutual Telephone Co.—24 hours	1,421.51	
Cash on Hand	242.51	
		Tls. 2,512,414.93

* Since collected...Tls. 79,736.68

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SANITARY BOARD.

I.

It is satisfactory to note that the Bill which the Government has brought forward to amend the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance is receiving the attention it deserves alike from the Chinese and the Europeans whose interests are concerned. By the time the Bill comes up for a second reading the Government should have the benefit of valuable expressions of public opinion in regard to the most debateable provisions of the Bill.

So far as the larger question of public control of the work of the Sanitary Board is concerned, nothing has yet been done which, by any stretch of the imagination, can be considered alarming to the Government. Can it be that the community has changed with the times? A dozen years ago the Government's refusal to accept the recommendations of the Sanitary Commission in this regard would have elicited, in less than a week, a more striking manifestation of disapproval than has yet been given. The suggestions which the Commission made were, a dozen years or so ago, distinctly encouraged as an ideal by the Colonial Office. Can the Government be blamed, then, if it assumes in the absence of any popular agitation on the subject, that the old aspirations of the community are dead and buried, and that the alternative proposals put forward by the Government in place of those advanced by the Commission have the silent support of the community?

It may be objected that it is hasty to draw such a conclusion yet. The Chamber of Commerce is convening a meeting for the election of a member of the Legislative Council to occupy the seat temporarily vacated by the Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, and this will doubtless offer the occasion for an expression of public opinion on the subject. When the Chamber of Commerce last expressed an opinion on a question of this character the plebiscite was overwhelmingly in favour of more effective public control. Whether the leading Chinese who are preparing to discuss the Bill will venture to ventilate their views on the subject of quasi-municipal government remains to be seen, and when it is seen it may have an important bearing on the discussion of the matter in the Legislative Council.

It is well that the community should once more have the pros and cons of the question put before them.

Mr. Shelton Hooper, as a member of the Commission, wrote as an appendix to the Report a valuable historical review of the demand for a more effective control of the affairs of the Colony, but he omitted to include in it the Colonial Office approval to which

allusion has been made in the opening paragraph of this article. Reference is made to this despatch now not only because it gives official sanction to the aspiration which the Sanitary Commission voiced, but also because it was in answer to a petition signed by nearly 400 prominent residents, including two who are now members of the Legislative Council—the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., and the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai. That petition, presented to the House of Commons in 1894, prayed for representative government in Hongkong, and Lord Ripon, who was Secretary of State for the Colonies at the time, wrote a despatch in which, after discussing the demands for unofficial representation on the Executive Council and increased representation on the Legislative Council, concluded as follows:—

"With regard to the institution of a Municipal Council, I frankly say that I should like to see one established at Hongkong. But there appear to be two practical difficulties in the way. The first is the present crisis. I am not prepared to sanction an important change of administration, until the future is tolerably clear and until the necessary measures for protecting the health of the Colony have been finally decided upon and brought into operation. Then, in a clear field, it may be possible to create a municipal body with some prospect of success.

"The second difficulty, to which allusion has already been made, is that of separating Municipal from Colonial matters. I am not confident that that difficulty can be overcome, nor am I confident that a municipality would be welcome to, and work harmoniously with, the military authorities. Still it is possible that the Sanitary Board might be developed into a satisfactory Municipal Council controlling all or some of the revenue which is now derived from rates. Whether any scheme of the kind is feasible I would ask you carefully to consider at your leisure, and in the meantime you are at liberty, if you see occasion to do so, to give publicity to this despatch."

Presumably the Governor (then Sir William Robinson) did carefully consider the matter, but the despatch in which His Excellency communicated his views to Downing Street was not published. There are indications in subsequent despatches from the Colonial Office that those views were definitely adverse to any scheme of the kind, for the Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, who succeeded Lord Ripon in the Colonial Office, remarking two years later on the absence of a Municipal Council in Hongkong, observed: "It seems impracticable to alter this state of things for this reason among others: that the Colony and Municipality would be in great measure co-extensive, and it would be almost impossible to draw the line between Colonial and Municipal matters." Therefore, in Mr. Chamberlain's opinion, the most practical course was to recognise that the Colonial Government was discharging Municipal duties and that on that account representatives of the citizens might fairly be given a place on the Executive.

It has to be said however, for the recommendation of the Sanitary Commission that no carefully prepared scheme was ever before submitted to the Government showing in Lord Ripon's words how "the Sanitary Board might be developed into a satisfactory Municipal Council controlling . . . some of the revenue which is now derived from rates." That scheme is fairly entitled to consideration on its merits. Since its publication it has been favourably commented upon, and generally regarded as a good scheme; but it can be more profitably debated now that His Excellency has publicly stated the reasons for its rejection.

The public have been told that the Governor has simply swallowed the advice of the Colonial Secretary and the Director of Public Works, and the excuse has kindly been made for him that his residence in the Colony has been brief and he could not therefore be expected to have a perfect grasp of the situation. And as the Governor's office work does not obtain the same publicity as his social engagements there may be some who have adopted this as readily as the Governor is assumed to have adopted the views of his advisers. But is it conceivable that any Governor—and

especially Sir Frederick Lugard, who cannot be accused of any want of sympathy with the public aspirations—would venture to pronounce judgment on an important question of this character, forced upon his personal attention in the way this has been, without giving the fullest and most impartial consideration to the arguments on both sides? It is common knowledge that the consideration both of the evidence given before the Commission and the Report based upon it have occupied a very large portion of His Excellency's time since his arrival in the Colony, and the has y, not to say impudent, suggestion that His Excellency has no mind of his own on the question may at once be dismissed.

It has to be recognised that there are arguments—and weighty arguments—against the establishment of even a quasi-Municipality in the Colony, and though the preponderating voice of the Community has in times past been in favour of it, the opposition has not emanated entirely from the officials. Mr. J. J. Keswick and Mr. E. R. Bellios, while members of the Legislative Council, wrote strongly against the idea. But many years have since passed and ample excuse exists for a reconsideration of the matter. In a further article we shall consider the scheme of the Commission and the Government's alternative proposals.

II.

The first question which suggests itself when we approach the consideration of the municipal scheme of the Commission is this: What are the conditions which have prompted the recommendation? This takes us at once to the root of matters. When we take the statements made by the Commissioners on this point and contrast them with declarations made by His Excellency the Governor we discover that a serious misunderstanding exists either on the one side or the other on an all-important point. That point is the status of the present Sanitary Board. Is the Board, as the Commissioners affirm, something even less than a Consulting Committee, or is the Board the master, not the servant, of the administrative head of the department? The President of the Sanitary Board claims (vide para. 304 of the Report):—

"that he is the sole head of the Department within the terms of Ordinance 23 of 1903, and that it is only in certain comparatively small matters, or as a matter of courtesy, that he consults the Board as to the working of the Department, or even keeps them informed as to what is taking place in the Department. All matters relating to finance, the control, appointments, promotions, &c., of the staff, conduct of business between the Board Meetings, and the ordering of the daily work of the Department being outside the jurisdiction of the Sanitary Board."

The Commissioners do not dispute the correctness of the attitude taken up by the Principal Civil Medical Officer. These views, however, were not countenanced by His Excellency the Governor in his speech to the Council. His Excellency, it is true, did not take hold of this particular paragraph of the Report, and directly declare that the President and the Commissioners had taken a totally wrong view of the matter; but when His Excellency is dealing in his address with the question whether the Medical Officer of Health should have a seat on the Board, we find him saying:—"It has been urged that he is a servant of the Board, responsible for carrying out the decisions of the Board, but the President is no less a servant of the Board to carry out its decisions." Contrast this declaration with the statement in the Report of the Commission, which affirms that the existing Ordinance, as amended by section 23 of 1903, has placed the whole control of the administration of the Sanitary Department in the hands of the Principal Civil Medical Officer (as administrative head of the Board), reducing the Sanitary Board to something even less than a Consulting Committee, and place against this statement also this further observation by the Governor:—"The Sanitary Board weigh . . . expert opinion against questions of finance and policy and the majority decide the issue."

If that correctly represents the position, a great deal of ground disappears from under the fabric erected by the Commission, and these extracts from His Excellency's speech might usefully be done in illuminated

text and framed for hanging on the walls of the Board room as a perpetual reminder to the President and the members generally. Before passing away from this question of the Board's powers of control there is one other point to notice. It is that His Excellency proposes to make certain changes in procedure which, while they serve to show that he is not entirely out of sympathy with the aspirations voiced by the Commissioners, will at the same time add emphasis to the declarations above quoted. His Excellency said:

I propose that the head of the department shall, before the 31st March of each year, lay the Estimates before the Sanitary Board for discussion, together with any proposal which he may have to make regarding works of a sanitary nature included in the vote for Public Works Extraordinary. I propose that he shall consult the Sanitary Board on any suggested changes in giving effect to sanitary By-laws; that he shall inform the Board of any change in the organisation of the staff; that he shall inform them regarding any recommendations for appointment, leave, or dismissal of the European staff; and that he shall lay before them any complaint of the public regarding the staff.

This seems a very satisfactory concession and will go far towards checking such a state of things as the Commissioners represent when they say that "the excessive powers given to Sanitary inspectors, coupled with insufficient supervision, resulted in considerable laxity on the part of the inspectors as to the execution of their duties and is responsible in a great measure for the corruption which existed." On this we have from the Commission the claim that "the Board must have full power to order and direct the officers and servants to carry out their orders, which orders should pass through the hands of the Secretary whose duty it should be to see them carried out."

One would suppose that the Secretary of such a department as the Sanitary Department would have enough duties of a secretarial character to monopolise his whole time and attention; and to impose on him the additional responsibility of seeing that the orders and directions given by the Board to its officers and servants are carried out seems a very large order indeed—quite sufficient, in fact, to engage the whole attention of one man. No Secretary of any Municipality in the world has such an extensive range of duties to perform as this claim would seem to impose. Efficient supervision in such circumstances could not reasonably be expected. The Commission would by this paragraph impose on the Secretary duties which in reality constitute him the administrative head of the whole department, though they withheld from him that designation. But when the Commission proceed to work out their scheme of reorganisation they abandon this idea of a "glorified Secretary" and give to him the status of a Secretary (or Clerk, as such an officer is usually called) to a Home Municipality. This is the scheme:—

312. (1.) There should be a Secretarial Department, the Secretary being co-equal with the heads of the other sub-departments, but having the right to control the entire correspondence, and be kept fully advised as to all that is taking place, in exactly the same way that a Secretary to a Home Municipality, or of a large Company, is the centre of all information.
- (2.) The Medical, having at the head, the Medical Officer of Health, with Assistant Medical Officers of Health.
- (3.) The Engineering Section, with an Executive Engineer, Assistant Engineers, and Overseers, as may be found necessary.
- (4.) The Veterinary Department, under the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, with supervision of markets and food supplies generally.

It is mainly on the question of the control of the engineering staff that the Commission's scheme has been wrecked. The Commission ask that the administration of the Public Health and Building Ordinances be entirely separate from the Public Works Department. His Excellency the Governor says that the

arguments advanced by the Director of Public Works against this proposal appear to him, as they did to his predecessor (Sir Matthew Nathan) to be convincing. The sum and substance of those arguments is that the creation of an Engineering section under the control of the Sanitary Board must necessarily mean duplication, additional cost and friction, and the Governor, recognising the justice of the complaint of the Commissioners on the score of division of control, has provided in the Bill now before the Council for the transfer of such officers as are now employed under the Building Authority from the Sanitary Board to the Public Works Department.

Apart from this—and it is a very important reservation—the demands made by the Commission so far as administration is concerned seem, for all practical purposes, to be conceded by the Government. Perhaps in the matter of controlling the finances the Sanitary Board does not secure as much as the Commission aimed at. It is conceded that the Board shall be consulted in the framing of the Estimates, and while the Commission made no suggestion of interference with the right of the Governor to modify the Estimates as may appear expedient, or with the Legislative Council's power of control over the Budget, yet the proposals of the Government do not appear to meet the request of the Commission for a restoration of "the control of the money voted for the Department." His Excellency has gathered the impression that the Commission desire that the Sanitary Board should deal with the money "as a lump sum," but paragraph 378 makes it clear that the Commission ask that the Board shall be responsible for the proper expenditure of the money "in accordance with the terms of the vote." There is no very obvious difficulty in the way of conceding such control. It is a reasonable request and may, perhaps, be met by letting the whole of the monthly accounts go before the Finance Committee to recommend to the full Board the payment of such accounts as they may find to be in order. In some of the best administered municipalities at Home, it is the practice to give in the printed agenda a full list of the accounts recommended to the full Board for payment, and a perusal of the Report of the Commission suggests that if this method of procedure had been adopted by the Sanitary Board some of the irregularities disclosed by the evidence taken by the commission might have been discovered very much earlier than they were.

Secondly, the Governor's speech concedes to the Sanitary Board a more satisfactory measure of control over its officers and servants than it has at the present time. His Excellency's arguments against giving to the Board the power of appointing and discharging officers, however, scarcely meet the point. His Excellency said "it is not possible for any corporate body to dismiss officers appointed under the Crown whose rights are safeguarded to them through the representatives of the Crown with an ultimate right of appeal to the Secretary of State." The Commission it may be pointed out, fully admit this in paragraph 361 of their Report. Their proposal is that future appointments should not be Crown appointments and that such officers should be responsible only to the Board. After all, the salaries of the civil servants in the Colony are paid out of the rates of the Colony, and one might be tempted to urge that it is against public right to deny the power of control over public servants to those who pay them. But when we open up this question in Hongkong we are confronted with the obvious argument that the Sanitary Board would have very small right to claim control on this ground, because it cannot be contended that the Board is a thoroughly representative body racially, either as regards population or rateable value. The Commission is content with the present constitution, but if the power of control is conceded to the extent the Commissioners demand the future is certain to disclose that this concession involves the admission of the principle of "representation according to taxation," and it must be obvious that this would be a most dangerous principle to admit into the government of this Colony. There is no need to labour this point. It will bear thinking over. The Commissioners will probably say that the

question does not enter into the matter at all. We can leave it then as a disputed point, and take the objection raised by the Governor, namely that it would not be to the benefit of the department to be run as a separate concern, as you would not get the same class of men, nor would you have the same continuity. Opinions will probably differ on that point; but the vital question is would the Sanitary Board get over the new set of officers more effective control than it is possible for them to have under such a modification of present conditions as the Government proposes? If the ex-Commissioners are able to show that the Government's proposals are inadequate in this connection, they should take an early opportunity of doing so, in order that the public may have the fullest information on the subject.

This has been written simply as a contribution to the discussion, and with no wish to dogmatise. Because the Government has not accepted every conclusion that the Commissioners have made, a hasty disposition has been shown to abuse and condemn and to represent that the public-spirited labours of the Commissioners have been all to no purpose. One would suppose that there is absolutely no hope of reform and that the same unsatisfactory condition of things revealed by the investigation of the Commissioners will continue to mark the sanitary administration of the Colony. Anyone, however, who reads what the Government has already done and further intend to do by executive action; and what is proposed to be done by legislative action in the Bill now before the Council as the direct outcome of the Commission cannot regard the work of these gentlemen as having been treated by the Government as of small value. Even though the Government may not be convinced that every recommendation the Commissioners made will be for the public good, effect has, or is about to be given to a great many of their recommendations which go to purify, improve and increase the efficiency of the public service. Even on points where the Government and the Commission differ, it cannot be said that the alternative proposals which the Government make do not aim at a higher standard of efficiency in the administration than has existed in recent years; and though there may be no quasi-municipality created to serve as a monument of the Commission, it is abundantly clear that they have secured for the community a purified administration, and will yet secure important improvements in the sanitary laws, and greater efficiency generally in the administration.

But the fact cannot be overlooked that the transference of the whole control of the engineering work to the Public Works Department practically shuts out all such questions from the arena of public debate. It can hardly be contended that the discussions which have taken place at the Sanitary Board on such questions have not been of great value, to say the least, in showing the need for the amendment of the Ordinance. Whether the amendments now proposed are satisfactory is a question largely for the architect and property owners; and the community must await their well-considered judgment on these matters before they can accurately gauge the advantage of more direct public control over this work than the new proposals of the Government will allow.

The American Consul General at Shanghai has been advised by cable from the Department of State that the charges preferred against Judge Willey by Mr. Andrews on November 19, 1907, have been fully examined by the President and that the conclusion is reached that the charges should be dismissed and that Judge Willey is entitled to high credit and commendation for his conduct in office.

Early on March 10th fire was discovered to have broken out in a grocer's shop in Station Street, Yaumati. The house was completely gutted and a woman aged about 50 and a child three years old were burnt to death. Another woman was badly scorched and was sent to the hospital. The stock of the shop was insured for \$1,500 in the Commercial Insurance Company. The cause of the outbreak and the extent of the damage have not yet been ascertained. The Yaumati Fire Brigade was in attendance.

CARNIVORA OR CHIMERA?

NEW TERRITORY MYSTERIES.

Reports still come to hand of the depredations caused by wild animals in the New Territory. The tigers already mentioned as being in the neighbourhood of Pingshan are still at large, as dead pigs testify daily in and around the village. No little alarm prevails among the villagers in consequence.

We hear that two officers of the Cameron Highlanders are equipping an expedition to go in search of the two tigers. They proceed by launch this morning to Pingshan where doubtless the sergeant of police will be able to show them the tracks of the animals. It is to be hoped the sportsmen will be able to get a shot at the beasts and bring home a couple of skins.

Tigers are not the only wild animals infesting the New Territory. Two wolves have been seen near Kowloon City and some little loss is laid to their charge. At first it was thought they were dogs, but a European, who was unfortunately unarmed at the time, got a closer view of them and confirmed the native opinion that they were wolves.

The track of a bear is also pointed out by some people in the same locality though the animal itself has not been seen.

At any rate there seems to be sufficient inducement for local sports to make good use of their guns over in the New Territory.

THE DEVONIAN DINNER.

The Devonian Society held its annual dinner on March 14th at the Hongkong Hotel. His Excellency the Governor, who, under the rules of the Society, can claim to be a Devonian, was present, accompanied by Mr. Brackenbury, his private secretary, who is also a Devonian. Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, the President of the Society, occupied the chair, and Mr. Mowbray Northcote, the honorary secretary and treasurer, occupied the vice-chair. Covers were laid for twenty-five, which was a somewhat larger gathering than usual, and the room was, as usual, adorned with the portraits of past presidents of the Society, the arms of the county, and Devonshire views. His Excellency the Governor left after the loyal toast had been honoured in order to attend the concert at the City Hall. A short toast list was interspersed with dialect and other songs, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

The toast of "The County of Devon" submitted in felicitous terms by the Chairman, was responded to by Mr. F. Hazeland, who hopes soon to be there.

The officers for the ensuing year were appointed during the evening. Mr. Hooper, who has been in the presidential chair for three years, proposed Mr. Northcote as his successor, but no other reason than a desire not to monopolise the chair being advanced, the company declared their dissent, and re-elected Mr. Hooper as president with acclamation. Mr. Northcote, being voted an incomparable secretary and treasurer, was re-elected to that position.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

From Mr. F. C. Heffer's report, dated Shanghai 4th March, 1908:—The Home Markets are quiet. Gold Kiling is quoted in London at 10 3/4. Raw Silk.—There is still no business to report in White Silks. Hand Filatures.—A settlement has been made for America of small Buffalo 1. grt. at Tls. 612 1/2. Yellow Silks.—A small business has been done.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, March 13th.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$960	to	—	per picul
Malwa Old	\$980	to	—	do.
Malwa Older	\$1020	to	—	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1060	to	—	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$800	to	—	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$880	to	—	do.
Patna New	\$1000	to	—	per chest.
Patna Old	\$1000	to	—	do.
Benares New	\$985	to	—	do.
Benares Old	\$—	to	—	do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai, March 5th, 1908:—Trade during the interval has been much quieter, the business that has been transacted being on much the same lines as last week, but on a smaller scale. Clearances have shown some improvement. The general idea appears to be to meet what demand there is for goods in stock, irrespective of their cost, and replace for arrival in time for Autumn demand. It cannot be said, as used to be the case in former years, that fresh business was interrupted owing to the clearances for the first Tientsin steamers, for they only carried some 2,500 packages of piece goods and 1,500 bales of Yarn; but then it must be remembered that up to date the following quantities have already been declared as having been shipped thence since the 1st January, namely:—57,000 pieces Grey Shirtings, 21,652 pieces White Shirtings, 25,803 pieces 32-inch T-Cloths, 4,200 pieces American Drills, 3,000 pieces English and 6,740 pieces American Jeans, 3,320 pieces English and 56,200 pieces American Sheetings, 11,600 pieces Fast Black Cotton Italian and 8,903 piculs Indian Yarn, and probably as much more has still to be declared by the Customs. It is reported that one steamer which sailed thence last week without cargo has arrived inside the mouth of the Peiho, but is unable to get up to Tientsin on account of the ice, and subsequent departures from here are halting at Chefoo for the weather to moderate. Meanwhile somewhat more reassuring news concerning the market has come down. It is said that holders of stock there have endeavoured to sell for prompt cash, but buyers finding subsequently that payment was required on delivery have cancelled their contracts and sent their orders to this market. The result is that between 2 and 3,000 bales American Sheetings have been bought from second hands here on about the basis of last week's prices. Newchwang is still the victim of the want of a proper exchange system and until that difficulty is overcome we do not see how any satisfactory business can be possible. We understood that the Customs figures for the trade of the Port during the whole year are only about equal to that with Dalny during the last half year. Clearances for the River markets are going on satisfactorily, but they are slow in placing fresh orders. The Manchester market is far from strong which deters buyers from operating largely, as a rule they are only placing orders for small quantities to keep their chops going in the Autumn. There has been a reaction in the Cotton market, Mid American having recovered to 6 1/2d in Liverpool and Egyptian is slightly higher, namely 8 1/2d. The 'future' quotation for Mid American is 5 7/8d. The export of Plain Cottons from England last month was 32,000 yards. That is expected to complete all the Autumn orders and subsequent shipments will show considerable falling off. New York remains firm with little or nothing doing in the heavier cloths for this market. Cotton is firmer for immediate, namely 10 1/4 cents March option, but only 10 1/8 cents for May. The Yarn market is quieter, but clearances of all kinds have been quite satisfactory. Native Cotton is easier.

From Messrs. Hbert & Co.'s Weekly Report, dated Shanghai, March 5th, 1908:—A moderate amount of business is going on, but there is no general active demand, and dealers are acting with caution as a general rule; prices on the whole are disappointing, and even with manufacturers in the producing markets selling at a loss to keep their mills going, it is very difficult to get more than a bare margin on any goods, except in cases where the chop has a specially high value. Sales have been made of the best chops in the market, covering makes of the highest reputation, at prices which leave a bare commission. The yarn market has been rather easier owing to dealers pressing sales for quick clearances; importers have been taking risks of great magnitude in this branch of the trade with very narrow margins; it is surprising that Chinese can continue to get their business done on such favourable terms for chops which belong to the spinners. American goods are selling in moderate quantities at low prices; it is said that 3-yard sheetings have been bought in America at 11 1/2 which lies somewhere in the region of Tls. 4 7/5 at 2 1/2 exchange, while the market here remains about Tls. 4 1/5. In one or two cases 2 1/2 to 5 cents less have been accepted for this quality; the purchase referred to is said to have been made by Tientsin. Shipments from England are on a smaller scale than last year, which ought to bring stocks down to a figure more in accordance with the requirements of the trade; the amount of money lost in holding

unnecessarily large stocks in Shanghai is enormous. The trade would be more satisfactory to every one concerned if merchants generally would realize that a smaller business, carrying small stocks, is often more profitable in the end than larger transactions which involve carrying a heavy stock. Grey Shirtings 8 1/2 lb.—Dealers have been occupied to a great extent during the week in clearing off the purchases made just after China New Year. The market is a little quieter but prices keep steady. Auction chops were steady. White Shirting.—Although demand has not been quite so active, a fair amount of business has been booked and prices have been well maintained. Auction prices varied a good deal, but the general tendency was towards higher rates. Drills and Sheetings.—There has been a better inquiry all round for these goods, and re-sales, mostly to Tientsin, have transpired. It is also reported that a very fair business has been placed in native-made sheetings. Dye-land Fancy Cotton.—We have nothing to report beyond the usual resales of old stocks at about last prices. Fast Black Cotton Lastings were fairly steady at Auction. Worsteds and Woollens.—The market is firm all round, but we have not heard particulars of any private sales. At Auction the tone for all Woollens was steady to firm. Cotton.—Local Cotton has remained quiet during the interval and closes rather easier. Yarn.—Prices for all Spinnings continue steady, but there is very little life in demand.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s Fortnightly Produce Circular, dated Shanghai, 5th March, 1908, has the following:—Gallnuts.—Business quiet. Small offerings. Price steady. Cowhides. Fair supply. Home markets have a declining tendency. Feathers.—Supplies accumulating. Demand very poor. Cotton.—Good quantities are offered. Europe shows little interest. Tallow.—Small offerings. Prices rising. Sesamum Seed.—Continued good business. Yellow seed very strong. White seed much easier. Strawbraid.—There is a small continued demand for Loyeh White and 7-ends split; and Shanai Mottled has again been sold. Otherwise business remains very dull. Wool.—Sheep's.—A small business is being done. Shipments from the interior are increasing. Wood Oil.—Good demand. As supplies are coming forward freely prices remain unchanged. Antimony.—A fair supply. Chinese are holding out for higher prices, which buyers are not yet ready to pay.

HANKOW, 26th Feb., 1908. The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export —

	Per picul
Cowhides, Best selected	Tls. 31.50
Do. Seconds	28.00
Buffalo hides, Best selected	22.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white	40.00
Colour	7.50
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	—
White China Grass, Wuchang and or	—
Poochi	—
White China Grass, Sinshan and or Chayn	—
Green China Grass, Szechuen	—
Jute	11.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Kin-chow	—
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow	—
and or Ma-chong	—
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	—
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	—
Animal Tallow	15.00
Gallnuts, usual shape	17.00
Gallnuts, plum do.	—
Tobacco, Tinchow	—
Tobacco, Wungkong	5.00
Turmeric	5.70
Sesamum Seed	8.70
Sesamum Seed Oil	—
Wood Oil	—
Tea Oil	—

SHARE REPORTS.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending 5th March, 1908, states:—There has been very little business since our last issue and we have to report a slight decline in Shanghai & Hongkong Wharves and Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. Most of the business being put through in these stocks are adjustments for the coming March Settlement on the 27th instant.

Banks.—H. & S. Banks. A few shares changed hands at \$712½ with exchange at 73. Insurance.—Union Insurance. Some shares are on offer at \$850. North-Chinas have sellers at Tls. 82½. Yangtze Insurance. Old shares have been dealt in at \$155. Shipping.—There is no business reported since our last. Docks & Wharves.—Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co. Some sales of cash shares have been made at Tls. 80. The rate for March is Tls. 81 nominal. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharves. On the 28th ultimo shares changed hands at Tls. 217 for March. On the 29th ultimo, after publication of the final dividend of Tls. 9 for last year, the market became flat, and in the absence of demand, rates have declined to Tls. 212½. At this rate a fair business was done yesterday. The forward market is without much life. Yangtze Wharf & Godown. Some shares have changed hands at Tls. 208. Sugars.—Nothing doing. Mining.—Chinese Engineering & Mining Co. A sale was reported on the 27th at Tls. 16, and there are sellers at this figure. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment Co. There has been a fair demand for shares, and we quote the rate at closing as Tls. 104 buyers. Industrial.—Ewo Cottons. Transactions are reported at Tls. 56½ and Tls. 57 for March. Shanghai Gas Co. have been dealt in at Tls. 107 and shares are wanted at this figure. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. The market has been dull during the week. The opening rates were Tls. 427½ for March, and Tls. 440 for June. A few shares changed hands at these figures, but at closing the best rates to be got are Tls. 425 for March and Tls. 437½ for June. Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co. Shares are quoted ex div. at Tls. 123 with buyers. Miscellaneous.—Hall & Holtz. Shares have been dealt in at \$23½. Weeks & Co. are wanted at \$22. Astor House Hotels. A single transaction is reported at \$22½. Shanghai Mutual Telephones. have improved to Tls. 53½. Shanghai Electric & Asbestos Co. A few shares are on offer at \$23. Loans and Debentures.—Shanghai Municipal Six per cents. have been dealt in at Tls. 99.

HONGKONG, 13th March, 1908.—Our market during the past week has continued more or less dull, and closes without any special feature to report. A fair investment enquiry is still met with, but the difficulty of bringing buyer and seller together continues, and business in consequence is much restricted. Bar silver has ruled fairly steady during the interval, and closes at 25½d. Exchange on London is quoted 1/10½ T.T., and on Shanghai at 74½ T.T.

BANKS.—Hongkong & Shanghai have again been negotiated at \$695, and close steady at this rate. London quotes £75 10s. Nationals remain at \$51 as last quoted.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been booked at \$840 at which rate there are further buyers. China Traders are also in request at \$91, but supplies do not appear available. North Chinas and Cantons continue on offer at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have declined to \$297½, but are wanted at \$295 ex the dividend of \$27 per share for 1906 paid on the 11th instant. Chinas have sold at \$89½ and \$89, and close with probable sellers at the latter rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have hardened, and close with buyers at \$29 after sales at \$28½, \$28½ and \$29. China and Manilas are on offer at the reduced rate of \$12, and Douglas are procurable at \$40. Star Ferries are firmer, and there are now buyers of old at \$26, and new at \$13. Shell Transports are easier at 44 6.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have weakened considerably, and close with sellers at \$108. Luzons are unchanged, but buyers could probably be found at quotation.

MINING.—Charbonnages have still further improved, and are now enquired for at \$535. Raubs are procurable at \$8.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been booked at \$96, and close in further request at the rate. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have been fixed at \$54½ and \$53 for old and new respectively and close steady. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves, under a speculative demand in the north, have advanced to Tls. 206 at which rate sales have been effected. We have no change to report in New Amoy Docks, and Shanghai Docks, after advancing to Tls. 81, close easier at Tls. 80 as last quoted.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands are slightly weaker with sellers at \$100, and Hongkong Hotels at \$98 ex the final

dividend of \$3½ per share for 1907, paid on the 9th instant. Kowloon Lands and still obtainable at \$27, and Humphreys' Estates at \$10½. Shanghai Lands have improved in the north to Tls. 106.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkong Cottons are reported to have been fixed at \$9 at which rate there are further sellers. Quotations for the Northern Mills are unchanged.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos have been booked at \$11 and \$11½ and close in request at the former rate. China Providents are procurable at \$9, and Green Island Cements at \$11½, after sales at this rate on 11th. Dairy Farms have improved to \$16½ buyers, and South China Morning Posts to \$22 buyers. Sales have been effected of Watsons at \$10, Electrics at \$15 and Tramways at \$13.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$695, sales
National B. of China	£6	\$51, sales
Hall's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7½, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$11, buyers
China Light & P. Co.	(\$10)	\$5½, sellers
China Provident	\$10	\$9, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 55
Hongkong	\$10	\$9, sales & sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 55
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 75
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 270
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16½, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	(\$54)
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$96, sales & buy.
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$10
Shanghai Dock and	Tls. 100	Tls. 80
Eng. Co., Ltd.		
Shai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 216½, sellers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$14, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$11½, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$17½
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15, sales
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$98, x.d., sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$22½
H. K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	\$150
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$26
Insurances—		
Canton	\$70	\$240, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$89, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$91, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$297½, x.d., sellers
North China	\$25	Tls. 85, sellers
Union	\$100	\$850, sellers
Yangtze	\$30	(\$147)
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$100, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$10½, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$27, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 106
West Point Building	\$50	\$48, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fr. 250	\$535, buyers
Raubs	£8 10	\$8, sellers
Peak Tramways	\$10	\$13, sales & sellers
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$7½, buyers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$108, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$15
Steamship Companies—		
China and Manila	\$25	\$12, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$40, sellers
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$29, buyers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	£5	(\$37)
Shell Transport Co.	£1	\$46
Star Ferry	\$10	\$26, buyers
Do. New	\$5	\$13, buyers
South China M. Post	\$25	\$22, buyers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$6, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries—		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$17
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$5
Watkins	\$10	\$2½
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$10, sales
Wismann Ltd.	\$100	\$165
United Asbestos	\$1	\$10, buyers
Do. Founders	\$10	\$120, buyers
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$10, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 6th March.—The volume of business transacted during the period under review is larger than that of the preceding fortnight. From Saigon to Hongkong, several charters were effected at 14/16 cents according to size and position but at the close the rate is only 15 cents nominal, no further tonnage being wanted owing to weakness of the local rice market. To 1 port Philippines, 27 cents for one and 30 cents for two ports, but all prompt orders appear to have been filled for the present; to North Coast Java, one fixture reported at 2½ cents. From Bangkok to Hongkong, 2 outside steamers have been taken up at 20½ cents and 27½ cents per picul. From Rajang to Hongkong, a handy sized boat has been closed, particulars as below. Coal freights are firm. From South Japan Coal port to Hongkong, \$1.30 per ton, 1st; to Canton, \$1.00. Hongkong to Hongkong, \$1.50; to Canton, \$2.00. From Haiphong to Canton, \$2.00. From Pulo Laut to Koh-sichang, \$3.00 per ton. The following are the settlements:—

Ragnar—Norwegian steamer, 1,220 tons, Rajang to Hongkong, \$13.250 lump sum.

Tjipinas—Dutch steamer, 2,444 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.30 per ton.

Tjibini—Dutch steamer, 3,014 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.70 per ton.

Myrtelene—British steamer, 1,620 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.30 per ton.

Besse Dollar—British steamer, 2,798 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$1.30 per ton.

Fume—German steamer, 938 tons, Hongkong to Canton, \$2.00 per ton.

Omura Maru Jap. ose steamer, 1,779 tons, Hongkong to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.

Ragnar—Norwegian steamer, 1,220 tons, Pulo Laut to Koh-sichang, \$3.00 per ton.

A Johnson & Co.'s steamer, Haiphong to Canton, 2.00 per ton.

Spir—Norwegian steamer, 870 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 20½ cents and 27½ cents per picul (Berth terms).

Glenfarg—British steamer, 2,350 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong (60,000 piculs), 27½ and 2½ cents per picul.

Chunwang—British steamer, 1,418 tons, Saigon to 1 port North Coast Java, 2½ cents per picul.

Amoy—German steamer, 732 tons, Saigon to Cebu, 27 cents per picul.

Progress—German steamer, 799 tons, Saigon to 1 port Philippines, 28 cents per picul.

Victoria—Swedish steamer, 1,180 tons, Saigon to 1 port Philippines, 30,000 piculs, 25 cents, 27,000 piculs, 26 cents, 25,000 piculs, 27 cents per picul, and 3 cents extra for 2 ports.

Nord—Norwegian steamer, 730 tons, Saigon to 1 2 ports Philippines, 27 cents and 30 cents per picul.

Skrumstad—Norwegian steamer, 860 tons, Saigon to 1 2 ports Philippines, 27 cents and 30 cents per picul.

Ulr—Norwegian steamer, 884 tons, Saigon to 2 ports Philippines (25,000 piculs), 29 cents per picul.

London—British steamer, 2,361 tons, Saigon to Hongkong (50,000 piculs), 14 cents per picul.

Chatham—British steamer, 2,316 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

Phranan—German steamer, 1,021 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Tuchan—British steamer, 1,122 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Taucau—British steamer, 1,042 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Phoumpenh—British steamer, 1,065 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Landrat Scheff—German steamer, 1,012 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Laertes—British steamer, 1,514 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul.

Fathful—Norwegian steamer, 981 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul.

Soldad—Norwegian steamer, Saigon to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul.

Soo Song—British steamer, 1,776 tons, monthly, hence to Salina Cruz and back, private terms.

FREIGHTS.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 45/- per ton of 40c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 45/- per ton of 40c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General cargo 30/- per ton of 40c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez), Tea 37/6 per ton of 40c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload, Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross; less than carload Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross plus river freight. To Shanghai—Tea and General cargo, Tls. 1.60 to 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, March 16th

ON LONDON.—Telegraphic Transfer	1/10 1/4
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10 1/4
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10 1/4
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/4
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/4
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11 1/4
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2 1/8
Credits 4 months' sight	2 1/8
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	193 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	46
Credits, 60 days' sight	47 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	142
Bank, on demand	142 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	142
Bank on demand	142 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	74 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	75 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	92 1/2
ON MANILA.—On demand	93
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	22 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	113 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	6 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	6 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	80
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.40
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$ 5.00
BAR SILVER, per oz	25 1/2

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

	per cent
Chinese 20 cents pieces	\$8.65 discount,
" 10 " "	8.95 "
Hongkong 20 " "	7.95 "
" 10 " "	8.10 "

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

March—

ARRIVALS.

- 5, Holstein, German str., from Tourane.
- 5, Kalgan, British str., from Wuhu.
- 5, Slavonia, German str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Bourbon, French str., from Saigon.
- 6, Calthness, British str., from Seattle.
- 6, Delta, British str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Hongbee, British str., from Penang.
- 6, Idomenous, British str., from Liverpool.
- 6, Kwoiyang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Moryori Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.
- 6, Phranang, German str., from Saigon.
- 6, Pongtong, German str., from Bangkok.
- 6, Singan, British str., from Haiphong.
- 6, Tean, British str., from Manila.
- 7, Amigo, German str., from Haiphong.
- 7, Machew, German str., from Bangkok.
- 7, Nerita, Dutch str., from Singapore.
- 7, Taintau, German str., from Bangkok.
- 8, Agamemnon, British str., from Shanghai.
- 8, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 8, Iyo Maru, Japanese str., from Japan.
- 8, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Pakhoi.
- 8, Kwangse, British str., from Wuhu.
- 8, Manila, German str., from Sydney.
- 8, Soshu Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 8, Yasan Maru, Jap. str., from Kuchinotzu.
- 9, Bendoran, British str., from London.
- 9, E. of India, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
- 9, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
- 9, Nordiska, Danish cable str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Nubia, British str., from Yokohama.
- 9, Tatsu Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 10, Borneo, German str., from Sandakan.
- 10, Fooksang, British str., from Calcutta.
- 10, Fookshing, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 10, Goeben, German str., from Yokohama.
- 10, Hongkong M., Jap. str., from San Francisco.
- 10, Hupeh, British str., from Haiphong.
- 10, Kiangching, Chinese str., from Chinkiang.
- 10, Luohow, British str., from Iloilo.
- 10, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 10, Omaro Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 10, Princess Alice, Ger. str., from Hamburg.
- 10, Rajah, German str., from Bangkok.
- 10, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
- 10, Totomi Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
- 10, Tremont, American str., from Seattle.
- 10, Tsinan, British str., from Nagasaki.

March—

DEPARTURES.

- 5, Belgravia, German str., for Shanghai.
- 5, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
- 5, Daiya Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
- 5, Fiume, British str., for Hongay.

- 5, Fokushu Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
- 5, Hangsang, British str., for Swatow.
- 5, Kinkiang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Landrat Scheiff, Ger. str., for Saigon.
- 5, Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
- 5, Lydia, German str., for Chinkiang.
- 5, Marie, German str., for Moji.
- 5, Powhatan, British str., for Moji.
- 5, Sungkiang, British str., for Cebu.
- 5, Takasaki Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Thordis, Norwegian str., for Moji.
- 6, Entin, German str., for Cheloo.
- 6, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
- 6, Haimun, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 6, Kiangping, Chinese str., for Chinkiang.
- 6, Hilary, German str., for Saigon.
- 6, Kyoto Maru, J. panese str., for Saigon.
- 6, Marmora, British str., for Shanghai.
- 6, Socotra, British str., for London.
- 6, Skramstad, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
- 6, Spir, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 7, Delta, British str., for Europe, &c.
- 7, Idomenous, British str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Inaba Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
- 7, Kowloon, German str., for Tsingtau.
- 7, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Miueola, British str., for Manila.
- 7, Mongolia, British str., for San Francisco.
- 7, Slavonia, German str., for Singapore.
- 7, Wongkoi, German str., for Swatow.
- 7, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
- 8, Cheongshing, British str., for Swatow.
- 8, Choisi, g, German str., for Swatow.
- 8, Fri, German str., for Saigon.
- 8, Hongbee, British str., for Amoy.
- 8, Joshiu Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 8, Keenebec, British str., for New York.
- 8, Li ngohow, British str., for Ningpo.
- 8, Moryori Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
- 8, Pe'chaburi, German str., for Hoihow.
- 8, Pitsanulok, German str., for Swatow.
- 8, Taiwan, British str., for Saigon.
- 8, Telemachus, British str., for Saigon.
- 8, Triumph, German str., for Quinhon.
- 8, Tung-shing, British str., for Swatow.
- 8, Zafro, British str., for Manila.
- 9, Mandal, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
- 9, Oscar II, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 9, Paklat, German str., for Swatow.
- 9, Ryoko Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.
- 9, Taiyuan, Brit. str., for Manila & Sydney.
- 10, Agamemnon, British str., for Singapore.
- 10, Amigo, German str., for Hoihow.
- 10, Bendoran, British str., for Nagasaki.
- 10, Catherine Apear, Brit. str., for Singapore.
- 10, Choyang, British str., for Swatow.
- 10, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 10, Kohsiehang, German str., for Bangkok.
- 10, Shansi, British str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Singan, British str., for Hoihow.
- 10, Tean, British str., for Manila.
- 10, Tjmahi, Dutch str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Borneo, from Sandakan, Mr and Mrs A. Brugg and Rev. Ebers.

Per Manila, from Sydney, &c., Mr and Mrs Mortens and servant, Capt. Naur, Messrs. F. Schmach, T. Ulrich, E. Davignon, C. A. Boughton, J. M. Switzer, N. Dahlgard, and G. Wagon.

Per Empress of India, for Hongkong, from Vancouver, Mr and Mrs E. O. Murphy and 2 children, Mr and Mrs W. B. Walker, child & nurse, Lt. J. Dixon, R.N., Lt. H. S. Douglas R.N., Messrs. F. S. Reilly, J. D. Schneck, C. Edwards; from Shanghai, Mr. R. S. Dougall.

Per Rubi, from Manila, Mr and Mrs J. E. McGrath, Dr. and Mrs. Nahal, Mrs. Malcolm, L. Siebold, Miss Robbins, Miss E. M. Miller, Miss Sleeper, Messrs. Geo. W. Gilbert, D. Hedderwick, J. Rucknrad, P. F. Jernigon, James Swieney, M. S. Fox, M. A. Rador, Leon Weit, C. Mills, P. Kionel, J. N. Sidebottom, and Arberg.

Per Tremont, from Seattle via Ports, Mr and Mrs Neal, Mr and Mrs Weber and 2 children, Capt. and Mrs Gerhart & son, Lieut. and Mrs Wilson, Mrs Whitford, Mrs Fitzhugh, Mrs Dotin, Miss O'Boyle, Miss Bailly, Miss Middleton, Miss H. Kinney, Capt. Laughorve, Capt. Jordan, Capt. Castle, Messrs. Breaker, J. M. Carter, H. E. Laughlin, W. D. Dohen, C. N. Washington, K. Lowinsohn, G. L. Townsend, Jas. Moore, Chas. Liudbergh, Wanden Bosch, W. Elise, H. W. Gangnusa, and Chas. Bryan.

Per Goeben, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mr D. Manpu; from Nagasaki, Mrs Chisa Watanabe, Mrs Tame Miyata, Mrs Toyo Miyata, Mrs Sata, Mrs Nakahara, Mrs Mashida Teto, and Mr Sakata; from Shanghai, Mr and Mrs A. S. Teena, Mr and Mrs Perman, Mrs Bahr, Mrs O. Sei, Mrs O. Sazo, Messrs. Konsul Tigges, H. Anderson, M. Porter, S. Wilkenson, Paul Gunther, Elias Tsa c, Müller, Alberto Costa.

Per Hongkong Maru, for Hongkong, from San Francisco, Consul-General and Mrs Sun See Yee, 2 children and servant, Dr. and Mrs H. C. Wilson, Mrs W. A. Sheridan, Messrs. Vicente Albert, Morgan Colley, Samuel B. Coleman, Albert Flor, Harold Goldthwait, Arthur Hauber, F. S. Harris, W. K. Peasley, Lincoln H. Hodgkins, L. E. Pope, and Charles Silk; from Honolulu, Miss Agnes M. Wood, Miss Grace B. Wood; from Yokohama, Miss T. Maxwell, and Mr George M. Raynsford; from Kobe, Mr and Mrs W. A. Burns, Mr and Mrs J. H. Hilland, Messrs. J. C. Clark, H. H. Hilland, F. A. Miller, J. E. Nicol, E. A. Raymond, E. Raymond, and S. Takenouchi; from Shanghai, Messrs. V. Bonicelli, F. W. Evans, W. N. Fleming, C. McKendrick, S. B. Lachlan, and A. Litzan.

Per Nubia, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr Bingham; for Marseilles, Miss Macfarlane; for London, Mr and Mrs R. A. H. Chamber and 3 children, Mr and Mrs D. J. Mills, Mr and Mrs G. Hatcheson and 3 children, Mr and Mrs W. S. Home, Mr, Mrs and Miss Tomkinson, Mr, Mrs and Miss Filtz, Mr, Master and Miss Newcombe and 2 children, Mrs McDonald and child, Mrs Dubson and infant, Mrs A. G. H. Carruthers and child, Mrs Coxmack and infant, Mrs Bingham & 2 children, Mr Vaughan Lee, Miss E. Mills, Miss Cornelia, Rev. E. Pearce, Master H. Mills, Master Taylor, Messrs. M. Mills, J. Reid, A. Turnfull, and C. C. Shilton; from Kobe, for Port Said, Mr A. Madella; from Yokohama, for Marseilles, Mr G. B. Kumland; for London, Mr D. B. Seaman.

DEPARTED.

Per Zafiro, for Manila, Mr and Mrs Depuy, Mr and Mrs Rosenstock and 3 children, Mrs C. West, Mrs B. Scott, Mrs J. Cooper, Miss C. L. Hean, Messrs. E. Knox, E. Schneider, O. Stader, C. Macgregor, G. W. Phillips, F. Wilson, W. Spidel, Wm. Lehto, A. Flores, F. Beckmann, Rob. Leman, and Watkins.

Per Inaba Maru, for Japan, &c., Mr and Mrs T. H. James, Mr and Mrs Newbold, Mrs Bickersteth, Mrs Rutherford, Miss James, Miss A. Buquet, Miss Rogers, Miss Chapman, Miss Glen Bott, Miss N. B. Banque, Miss Oishi, Miss Oshima, Miss Masumoto, Dr. C. Toyama, Messrs. Watanabe, Fujii, I. H. Pye, Oishi, H. Beavie, Komori, Ishimaru, Kanimatsu, D. Silva, H. Morgan, H. Dohashi, K. Hori, H. Morita, and F. Nono.

Per Mongolia, for San Francisco, &c., Mr and Mrs D. J. Gutsman, Mr and Mrs R. Litmann, Mr and Mrs Firth, Mr and Mrs St. Clair, Mr and Mrs Marshall, Mr and Mrs Leconte, Mr and Mrs H. Debnam and infant, Mr and Mrs Fred T. P. Waterhouse, Dr. and Mrs C. H. Wilson, Judge and Mrs Beatty, Mrs J. R. Kennedy, Mrs C. Leven, Mrs A. J. de Souza, Mrs L. B. Davies, Mrs Gordon Grabrix, Mrs L. F. Skilleam, Mrs G. H. Corse, jr, Mrs H. A. Ernsworth, Mrs L. F. Miller, Mrs W. S. Whited, Mrs C. Luthan, Mrs Thompson, Misses L. F. McLaughlin, Baird, Collins, P. de Souza, J. C. Hickok, Mary Humphrey, E. B. Cakes, Mary T. Banks, G. Webb, A. Stevens, Cumisky, Steads, Latham, Marion Doughty, Clara Kelly, and Latour, Lt. D. W. Chamberlain, Lt. H. B. Richi, Lt. T. D. Newell, Judge A. Wilson, Bishop J. J. Mills, Asst. Surgeon C. E. Strive, Rt. Hon. Lord French, Messrs. R. B. Leven, P. Harvey, A. J. Meldrum, T. A. Dorn, H. Dushree, J. F. Giffard, C. Y. la Bas, Malcolm Mchill, C. B. Davies, V. V. Davies, H. Palmer, E. C. Jones and son, P. M. Coyle, E. P. Brias, R. Fairnie, Sullivan Padgatt, Allan Whitting, A. H. Silverstone, T. S. Forest, J. F. Stevenson, Ensign R. S. Riggs, C. G. Cooper, S. C. Ridgeway, Vincent Flano, F. D. Cheser, R. Remfry, P. Aubry, P. des Uctianree, Ajud, Allemanger, and Father J. P. Monaghan.

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